Hafa Adai!

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Outer Cove to be closed

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Outer Cover Marina will be shut down indefinitely and all existing agreements with the marina will be terminated.

The closure will start next Monday, Sept. 30, 2019.

In an announcement last Friday, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources said the department will be closing the Outer Cove Marina in its entirety due to its "deteriorating condition" and would also terminate all existing agreements made for the marina until further notice.

The closure is so that the marina can be rehabilitated and fixed for future use. The announcement, however, did not set a timeline on how long

See OUTER on Page 4

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources announced that the Outer Cove Marina will be closed on Sep. 30 due to safety concerns and rehabilitation efforts to improve the site for future public use. MARC A. VENUS

Decision sparks dismay, fear

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Some marine sports operators on Saipan said the decision to close the Outer Cove Marina on Sept. 30, 2019, may force them to shut down operations, since they are just starting to recover from Super Typhoon Yutu's impact on the tourism industry.

» **Most employees of affected marine sports operators are locals**

As this developed, marine sports operators are planning to hold a meeting today, Monday, to discuss the closure order. They will also tackle the Division of Fish and Wildlife's emergency regulation that will assess a $3 departing fee per passenger, plus a monthly fee per commercial vessel, for those that will use the Smiling Cove Marina.

DFW has also notified all commercial boats and boat users using the Smiling Cove Marina that there will be another meeting this Thurs-

See DECISION on Page 4

1,841 TLCs OK'd so far

The U.S. Labor Department reported over the weekend to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) that Marianas employers have been issued temporary labor certifications for 1,841 foreign workers. Certification from Labor that no U.S. worker is able or available to fill a job is required before employers can apply to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for fiscal year 2020 CW-1 worker permits. The certification

» **41-day average to process temporary labor certifications**

count is current as of Aug. 22, 2019.

The Labor Department also updated Sablan on how long it takes to process certification applications

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Report: NMI finances doing better; still needs work

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A report analyzing the financial position of the CNMI compared to other insular territories noted that, although it is improving compared to previous years, it would still need "excellent" work.

A financial statement analysis, known as the Performeter, which was submitted to the CNMI Legislature last week by Crawford & Associates, LLC, noted that although the CNMI's

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Local

'I had many questions and concerns' on budget

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) voted against the budget bill chiefly because he had concerns involving retiree benefits and interisland medical referrals.

Manglona, the lone senator who voted against the budget bill last Thursday, explained that his main concern involved the 25% of class members' full retiree benefits.

"I offered a floor amendment, which would have guaranteed this payment to the retirees by suspending Public Law 20-10, should the special casino revenue tax account be insufficient to cover it," he told *Saipan Tribune* in a statement.

P.L. 20-10 splits the annual casino license renewal fee of $15 million among Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Manglona's floor amendment was not seconded and did not move forward on the Senate floor. The senator met the same fate twice in a row after he introduced another floor amendment that sets aside $100,000 from the budget allocated for Rota for interisland medical referrals.

"…The amendment would have provided urgently and desperately needed [funds] for interisland medical referral patients traveling from Rota to Saipan. This would have restored a similar appropriation language included in last year's budget law," he said.

Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) pointed out that these concerns were discussed during Senate leadership meetings.

She said she had recommended allocating a certain amount for air transportation, lodging and accommodations, as well as stipends for interisland medical referrals "but because of the tightness of the general appropriations that we are to act on today and [because] I was informed that we may be receiving supplemental appropriations in the very near future, should that materialize, the Senate will highly consider appropriating a certain amount not only to [Rota] but even to the air transportation, lodging and accommodations, as well as stipends for inter-island medical referrals for [Tinian]."

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) assured Manglona that a supplemental appropriation would soon follow after voting on the budget bill takes place.

"Although we did not second his motions, it does not mean we do not support his motions. I want to iterate that we discussed all those during committee meetings," he said.

"…We are all for the full support of [the retiree benefits]. We will make sure that retiree [benefit funding is] never injured, never diminished, nor impaired," he added. "There [is] funding forthcoming and available".

After several hours of discussions with a handful of House of Representative members in an attempt to avert conference committee discussions, the Senate passed the fiscal year 2020 budget bill last Thursday morning on a vote of 6-1.

Santos explains further

In a separate statement over the weekend, Santos explained her opposition to Manglona's amendments.

She noted that suspending P.L. 20-10 would have to originate from the House since the Senate did not have the power of the purse.

"This amendment is not appropriate for the budget bill because the budget bill can only appropriate funds identified by our governor. The $15-million license fee was not identified in the House concurrent resolution…therefore not part of the budget bill." she said, adding the House concurrent resolution sets the limit on the amount the Legislature can appropriate.

"The amendment cannot be introduced in the Senate because our NMI Constitution states that all appropriation and revenue bills must be initiated in the House of Representatives," she added.

On Manglona's attempt to introduce an amendment that would have set aside $100,000 for Rota's interisland medical referral patients, Santos noted that she had previously proposed a similar floor amendment for the same purpose.

She said she was assured, though, by Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) that the Legislature can address that need in a supplemental budget or a fund certification of $1 million each for Rota and Tinian from the recent remittance of the $5 million casino license fee.

Manglona also brought up the issue of the $15 million Marianas Public Land Trust Fund loan during budget-discussions. He offered the members a "potential revenue source" that can be used by the Public School System to fix damaged school buildings.

"All we needed was a language in the budget bill to state that, in the event that the Federal Emergency Management Agency reimburses funds expended for [Super] Typhoon Yutu, the $15 million from the MPLT loan shall be re-appropriated to PSS [and other obligations]," he said in a statement to Saipan Tribune.

Santos noted, though, that inserting this into the budget bill would not also work.

"The MPLT loan fund was not identified in the House concurrent resolution. The MPLT loan was a result of negotiation between our governor and MPLT. The use of fund was agreed to by the parties and the attorney general approved the use of [this] fund," she noted.

"The Legislature cannot change the purpose and use of the funds unilaterally because the loan has terms and conditions that have been approved to by the parties. To change the loan, the governor and MPLT must start all over to discuss and agree to any changes and the attorney general must approve it," she added. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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Under the new regulations, ATVs will not be able to operate closer than 250 meters from residences and other sensitive areas such as schools, churches, passive parks, and golf courses.
IVA MAURIN

Zoning board approves regs for ATV, UTV use

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Zoning board approved during the Commonwealth Zoning board meeting last Friday the proposed regulations governing all ATV, UTV, and motorcycle businesses on Saipan and how these machines are to be used.

The regulations specify conditions to be imposed on all conditional use permits for all-terrain vehicles, utility vehicles, and motorcycle rental establishments to address community concerns, including noise, emissions, public safety, erosions, and other environmental concerns.

It also allows the Zoning administrator to take administrative action to abate nuisances caused by operators who fail to conform to the prescribed conditions.

Under the regulations, the operation of ATV, UTV, and motorcycles must be confined to rural areas, except north of Tanko, Rakka, and Chalan Matuis drives.

There should be no emission of noise in excess of 92 to 105 decibels. Operation of the vehicles are also limited to three hours after sunrise up to three hours before sunset, and only at improved trails approved by the Division of Coastal Resource Management.

The vehicles will also not be allowed to operate within 250 meters from restricted areas. These include areas of particular concern (as defined by the DCRM); village residential zoning district; village commercial zoning district; house, apartment, hotel, or bed and breakfast; church; schools; daycare or other childcare facility; libraries; golf course; passive park; beaches; or conservation areas, mitigation bank, culturally sensitive, or historically sensitive places.

In addition, the vehicles must be stored within the permitted establishment, and must be screened from public and street. The vehicles must also meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards with visible compliance stickers.

The regulations also maintain that all existing operators shall comply within 18 months.

In 2015, the Zoning board imposed a moratorium on applications for conditional use permits for ATV rental establishments.

CHCC board OK's 8 medical privileges

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s board of trustees approved a total of eight applications for medical privileges last Aug. 15.

The board was supposed to review and vote on seven applications only but board member Polly Masga asked for a conditional determination on Dr. William Moss' application for medical privileges.

Other than Moss, a total of five doctors and two physician assistants were granted medical privileges: Leticia Borja, Philip Dauterman, Michael Hart, Elizabeth Kohnen, Ngoc-Phuong Luu, Christine Strong, and Christopher Jensen.

When a doctor or physician is approved for medical privileges, he/she is given the authority granted by a hospital governing board (the CHCC board of trustees) to provide patient care in the hospital. *(Marc A. Venus)*

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TLC

From Page 1

and on approval rates. The average processing time is 41 days. And 69% of applications are being approved; only 16% have been denied. The balance of applications were incomplete or withdrawn by the employer.

In total, Labor reported receiving applications for 13,394 CW-1 workers. There are 12,500 CW-1 permits available in fiscal year 2020.

"I wanted to get this information to the public as soon as I had it, because of the concern in the business community that the Department of Labor is delaying action on the certifications," Sablan said.

The labor certification, a requirement of last year's Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, is intended to protect U.S. workers in the Marianas from unfair competition from foreign labor. The Workforce Act also aims to keep wages for U.S. workers from being driven down by cheaper CW workers.

NMBA advised delay

On April 4, U.S. Labor opened the application process for employers to request prevailing wage determinations for the jobs they wanted to fill with foreign workers. Determining the typical wage paid for a job is the first step in applying for a temporary labor certification.

The Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. advised CNMI employers not to apply and to wait until the Commonwealth government completed a wage survey. Thus very few applications were submitted after the NMBA statement, according to Labor, and did not pick up until the Commonwealth government finally completed the wage survey process in July, one year after passage of the Workforce Act.

"Clearly, the business community would be in a better position had the Commonwealth government begun work on a prevailing wage survey as soon as the law was enacted [in July 2018], rather than waiting until now, when the application period is already beginning," Sablan advised in April.

U.S. Labor made numerous attempts to help employers and the Commonwealth government adjust to the new law and file timely applications. Labor held webinars for employers in March and April and posted instructional materials online. The department held technical assistance calls in April and July to assist employers and business groups get applications in quickly.

Labor also set up the application process to be available online, so that mail times and distance would not hurt Marianas employers. ***(PR)***

OUTER

From Page 1

the marina will be closed.

In Friday's notice, DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente said the marina's closure is based on the recommendation of the Office of the Public Auditor and Department of Public Works.

"We want to ensure the safety and security of the tenants, operators, agents, and the general public by closing down the marina as DLNR moves forward on rehabilitation efforts. We ask for the community's patience as we improve one of our island's most popular sites to better accommodate events for the public," he said in the statement.

Benavente's announcement added that all OCM tenants, operators, and agents must sign a waiver of liability, due on Sept. 4, 2019, by 12pm.

"Visit the Smiling Cove Marina office [or the DLNR main office in Lower Base] immediately to sign a waiver of liability to continue usage of OCM prior to full termination," Benavente noted. Failure to sign a user waiver on or before Sept. 4, 2019, will result in eviction from OCM.

DLNR also wants updated company records to be provided to them, including updated records such as mailing addresses, contact persons, and accounts with OCM, as well as vessels.

"DLNR will submit all past due accounts for collection with the Office of the Attorney General," the announcement noted.

DLNR said that companies should start preparing to relocate.

"Begin to make immediate arrangements for berthing your vessels, loading and unloading passengers elsewhere," the announcement noted.

An employee of a marine sports operator jumps on a collapsed bridge at the dock of the Outer Cove Marina yesterday afternoon. Two of three bridges had already collapsed due to deterioration. The Department of Lands and Natural Resources will close Outer Cove Marina starting Sept. 30, 2019. Some commercial boat operators are hoping DLNR will reconsider.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

FINANCES

From Page 1

economic performance is slowly reversing several years of "less than satisfactory" health and performance, it still needs work.

"…Continued excellent annual financial performances will still [be] necessary to completely reverse the poor financial position that the CNMI has found itself in over the past decade," the report noted.

The Performeter rated the CNMI's financial performance for fiscal year 2018 at 3.84, which indicated a steady and consistent improvement since fiscal year 2009.

The rating scale ranges from zero to 10, with zero being the lowest and 10 the highest. In 2009, the CNMI's overall score was at 1.84. The lowest was in 2011 at 1.48.

"The 2018 reading of 3.84 indicates the evaluator's opinion that the CNMI government's overall financial health and performance showed consistent improvement with the prior period, although the reading continues to remain below satisfactory as of and for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2018," the report noted.

Among the excellent aspects of the CNMI government's financial health included a large improvement in the CNMI's net position, which was consistent with previous year's performances.

For fiscal year 2018, the CNMI's total net position deficit decreased from fiscal year 2017's $62.9 million to $39.3 million. This is a difference of $22.6 million, or 36.5%.

"The CNMI primary government's overall net position now stands as a net deficit of $39.3 million, an improvement of significantly shrinking down the size of the overall net position deficit by earning revenue in excess of expenses for the year," the report noted.

The report further noted a healthy intergenerational equity measure for the government. Intergenerational measure is a measure of whether the government lived within its means in the measurement year, or was required to use prior year resources to fund a portion of current year costs, or shifted the funding of some of the current year costs to future periods.

"For the year ended Sept. 30, 2018, the CNMI funded 108.8% of their expenses with current year revenues, which is considered an excellent ratio," the report stated. "…Although a slight decrease in the ratio from the prior year."

For fiscal year 2017, the intergenerational equity measure for the CNMI government was at 118.8%.

While the report noted several favorable figures, it also showed some unsavory figures.

The CNMI's level of total unrestricted net position, an indication of the amount of unexpended and available resources the CNMI has at a point in time to fund for emergencies, shortfalls, or unexpected needs, are less than ideal.

"For [fiscal year 2018], the CNMI's total unrestricted net position was in a deficit position that approximated -32.7% of annual total revenues, which amounts to $133 million," the report noted.

"However, this represents an improvement in the ratio when compared to the ratio of the prior year and continues a six-year trend of improvement," it noted.

Fiscal year 2017's ratio was -34.1%, while the prior fiscal year's was -57%. The largest ratio the Performeter provided was for fiscal year 2012, where the CNMI government was -145.4% in a deficit should an emergency arise. The ratio has been shrinking since then.

For those interested, the full report is available online at http://www.pitiviti.org.

DECISION

From Page 1

day, Aug. 29, at 6pm at the American Memorial Park's amphitheater. The meeting will only discuss the emergency regulation and the fee schedule.

With the impending closure of the Outer Cove Marina, which the Department of Lands and Natural Resources described as "in deteriorating condition" in its public notice last Friday, some marine sports operators have expressed a willingness to shoulder the expenses of repairing it and want to talk with DLNR and the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres about it.

Saipan Tribune learned that two of three bridges to the dock at the Outer Cove Marina had collapsed—one happened last year and the other early this year. The remaining bridge appears to be also deteriorating.

Marine Sports Association president Adonis Santos said in an interview over the weekend that closing Outer Cove Marina will force them to pick up and unload boat passengers at the Smiling Cove Marina, which he said is too congested.

He said DLNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife will also start to collect $3 per boat passenger at the Smiling Cove Marina, on top of monthly fees per vessel based on its length, that will be assessed on boat operators.

The Outer Cove Marina will be closed effective Sept. 30, 2019. In reaching that decision, DLNR Secretary Anthony T. Benavente cited in a notice issued Friday the deteriorating condition of the place.

Santos said there is no need to close the entire Outer Cove Marina. What needs to be done, he said, is fix the collapsed bridges and a half portion of the dock, while operators can continue to operate on the other half, then later repair the remaining half.

"We are willing to pay for the repair costs, in exchange for allowing us continue doing business," Santos said.

He hopes the government will understand their situation, as marine sports operators are still just recovering since tourists are slowly coming back.

He said they suffered due to the lack of customers after Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation in October 2018 that crippled the CNMI's tourism industry for several months.

Santos has 31 employees and 23 of them are local residents or U.S. citizens.

For a couple of years now, DLNR allows marine sports operators to continue to operate at Outer Cove Marina by just requiring them to sign a waiver of liability.

Santos said marine sports companies are helping the tourism industry by paying taxes, but DLNR only seem to be helping only the fishermen.

"There's no effort to provide us, the commercial boaters, with a nice facility," Santos said.

Another marine sports operator who asked not be identified agrees.

"We want to help the government. But it seems they don't care, they just want to collect fees. We are providing good services to tourists. There's no plan for us. We are paying thousands of dollars in taxes," the operator said.

He said the Outer Cove Marina has been neglected for so many years. "When Tony Pellegrino was alive and maintaining the Outer Cove Marine, we did not encounter any problems," the operator said.

He said he can't imagine the traffic of boats and tourists at Smiling Cove Marina after the Outer Cove is closed.

Saipan Tribune learned that some operators and their employees are considering holding a protest rally.

Muña: PSS got $23.86M so far; $11.5M still owed

By MARC VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña said the $23.86 million that the CNMI government has so far transmitted to the Public School System for fiscal year 2019 is the barest minimum and underfunds the Commonwealth's education sector.

Under the budget law, Public Law 20-67, PSS was supposed to get a total of $42.86 million in fiscal year 2019, but this amount was severely slashed as a result of the government's austerity measures in the wake of the economic downturn following Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction last October.

In his presentation to the Board of Education's Fiscal, Personnel, and Administration Committee at its meeting last week, Muña said that $7.5 million has already been cut from the fiscal year 2019 budget of PSS due to the ongoing austerity measures; that means PSS will be receiving a total of $35.36 million for its operations this fiscal year. With PSS already getting $23.86 million from the CNMI government so far, Muña said that leaves PSS still waiting for $11.5 million from the central government.

Muna

He said PSS wants to avoid going into deficit. In order to avoid that, he said that PSS needs to make sure that the rest of the $11.5 million due is transferred.

"It's very difficult to operate the schools with only $23 million," he said.

Muña was joined by other PSS officials at the meeting.

In a later interview, he said that PSS needs to be mindful of upcoming expenses such as transportation costs, overtime for certain employees as five school are slated to be running double sessions, and other expenses. PSS was able to decrease certain costs, with the summer downtime after schools were completed.

Muña said that they have been in contact with the Department of Finance about the appropriations and understand the current financial situation that they are going through.

NMI students bound for Korea this September

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirty-five CNMI students will be South Korea-bound next month in an educational trip organized by the Korean Community in Saipan, in partnership with the Saipan Mayor's Office.

The trip, which runs from Sept. 1 to 5, is part of the 2019 Saipan Local Students Visit to Korea Program.

IVA MAURIN

Students meet with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang at this office last Friday, before heading to South Korea this September.

With the theme "Growth and Advancement in Sports and Culture in Korea," the students will visit the different sports facilities in South Korea and be exposed to its culture, on top of other attraction.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said Friday this would be the the third group of students bound for Korea under this partnership program. He urged the students to soak in as much of the experience as they can. "I know you are [going to] enjoy it. When you come back, please share your experience with us [and with the other students], so they can anticipate the next round," Apatang said.

The mayor also thanked the parents for supporting the program, and for allowing their children to experience the Korean culture.

Korean Community of Saipan official Simon Sin said the experience will help expand the students' understanding of the world, and help them gain more knowledge about their strengths and weaknesses. Sin adds that accepting the challenges to be abroad inherently demonstrate independence, self-confidence, and adaptability.

During the five-day trip, the students will visit the Hanok Village, the Korean Institute of Sports Science, Gwachun City Seoul Grand Park, Cheon An City's Independence Hall of Korea, and the Nam Dae Mun Market, among others. The students will also meet with the Korean Sport and Olympic Committee, and watch a professional baseball game.

Mateo Guerrero, 15, a Marianas High School student, is excited about the trip. "I was raised with Koreans in my community, and I'm excited to know what the culture is. I can learn from the culture, the tradition and the values, and I can take that back with me and teach people about it when I return to Saipan," Guerrero said.

The students' entire trip will also be documented by We670 YouTuber Mark Sonoda and Chris Chang of Hood CNMI.

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Salty Skin Pacific wins first-ever Pitchfest

Salty Skin Pacific LLC won the first-ever Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Pitchfest last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Ballroom, outdoing seven other finalists in presenting an effective business pitch.

Joe Villacrusis, who owns Salty Skin Pacific with his business partner, James Lee, was awarded $2,000 as the overall winner of the Pitchfest and $500 courtesy of Chamber accelerator investor I Love Saipan.

The chamber also presented its "Chamber's Choice" award to four businesses: JD's Boutique, Tahine's TV Productions, Ra Power, and Music & Me.

Tahine's TV Productions also received an award courtesy of Paradise Dental Spa and the first-ever champion investor award of $1,000, courtesy of TanHoldings; Isla Shreds received an accelerator investor award from IT&E; Marianas Collection received an accelerated investor award from the Marianas Business Plaza; and Guava Rose receives an accelerator investment award from Friends First Marketing.

Pitchfest was an opportunity for entrepreneurs to share their ideas with a panel of judges and an audience for a chance to win seed money that could help grow or launch a small business. Each of the eight businesses were given a total of seven minutes to discuss their business pitches to the panel of judges and three minutes for questions and answers by the judges.

In his presentation to the panel, Villacrusis pitched the idea behind Salty Skin, which is to provide a clothing that represents the CNMI's paddlers, fishermen, surfers, divers, and other water sports, and to be the first clothing brand on island to fully dedicate its efforts and sales toward ocean conservation.

He showed the Chamber panel Salty Skin's prototype shirt made with organic cotton. He believes that Salty Skin has an edge because it follows the current movement on climate change.

Salty Skin Pacific currently operates exclusively online.

Besides the $2,000 first-place prize, Villacrusis will also be receiving free chamber membership under the start-up package (worth $300), free Saipan Young Professionals membership for one year, a recognition plaque/trophy, and a sponsored gift bag from community sponsors.

"Now [with this money] we can begin operations and production of our shirts, hats, and towels," he said.

He wants to get the business started so they can start charity work, as they intend to donate a certain portion of the prize money to the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's Green Gala. One of Salty Skin's long-term goals is to create a non-profit organization designed to protect the oceans.

Salty Skin Pacific credits the chamber and the Small Business Development Center's Nicole Babauta for mentoring.

The Pitchfest judging panel consisted of acting Northern Marianas College president Frankie Elliptico, Triple J Saipan's Perry Inos Jr., I Love Saipan's Alex Youn, Jiang Zheng Group's Joe Guerrero, and *Marianas Variety*'s Laila Boyer. ***(Marc A. Venus)***

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6804
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING DESIGN, FACILITIES MASTER PLANNING, AND PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

NMC RQS 19-001

Northern Marianas College (NMC) is soliciting for interested firms "Qualifications Statement's" for Architectural/Engineering services. The Statements of Qualification is due not later than 10:00am on September 27, 2019, Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg O, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

The requests for "Statement of Qualification (RQS)" Packet are available at NMC, Procurement Office commencing Monday at 10:00am, August 26, 2019. No fee is required for obtaining the RQS packets.

Pre-submittal conference is scheduled for Friday, 10:00am on September 13, 2019 at NMC Conference Room, Building P.

This Request for Statement of Qualification under Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available for this procurement. Interested firms/individuals located outside of the CNMI may request for the RQS packet by e-mail address to Anita Camacho at email anita.camacho@marianas.edu.

NMC reserves the right to reject any or all statement of professional qualification for any reason if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement Management Office

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

Wireless Ridge Landscaping

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

(1) NURSERY WORKER
Perform residential and commercial landscaping work including design conceptualization and layout, preparation of plant materials, soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Take care of nursery plants, including propagation and maintenance, proper storage and use fertilizer, and proper storage and application of insecticides. Experience with propagation and care of orchids highly desirable, as well as experience with tropical plants and general nursery related duties.

(3) LANDSCAPING AND GROUNDSKEEPING WORKERS
Perform residential and commercial landscaping work including design conceptualization and layout, preparation of plant materials, soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Also performs grounds keeping duties and other related duties as assigned.

All positions close 5:00pm on Thursday, September 12, 2019.
Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume. It should also include a valid Police Clearance no more than 6 months old. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Wireless Ridge Landscaping is an equal opportunity employer. The potential applicants/ May directly apply to Wireless Ridge Landscaping, contacting us at (670) 234-3926 or through email address Mondays through Fridays and is open between 8:00am to 5:00pm for all related recruitment process.

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) SHELTER WORKER

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Old Sister Remedios Bldg.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma, resume, current police clearance and a copy of valid driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2019 AT 4:00PM

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

TWO (2) Rolling Machine Setter, Operator and Tender $13.92 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Set up, operate, or tend machines to roll steel forming bends, beads, knurls, rolls, or plate or to flatten, temper or reduce gauge of material. Inspect machine and conduct preventive maintenance. Have inspected materials and products for defects, and to ensure conformance to specifications. Set up machine to ensure items manufactured or produced meet customers' specifications. Direct or accomplish the threading or feed sheets or rods through rolling mechanisms or start and control mechanisms that automatically feed steel into rollers. Direct or accomplish the packaging, fastening or stacking of end product for proper storage or delivery. Accomplish other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school graduate
At least 12 months experience as Rolling machine, setter, operator and tender is required

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Heavy Equipment Mechanic $8.73 to $10.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Operate and Inspect Machines and Heavy Equipment, Trucks and vehicles to Diagnose Defects. Clean, Lubricate, and perform other routine maintenance work on Heavy equipment, Trucks and vehicles. Repair or Overhaul Machines, Heavy Equipment, Trucks, and Vehicles then test to ensure operating efficiency. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school graduate
At least 24 months experience as Heavy Mechanic is required

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer

Employment Opportunity

The NMI Board of Nursing seeks a Fulltime Office Clerk:

Essential competencies
1. Communications
2. Organizational skills
3. Computers: Data base management

Qualifications
High School graduate with at least two (2) years experience in customer service. Must have strong administrative skills are required, as well as advanced computer skills including knowledge of MS word, Excel and power point.

Closing Date: August 30th, 2019.

A detailed copy describing the individual position is available by request through our email below.

Interested applicants please submit your resume and a cover letter to:
NMI BON
Email: nmibon@gmail.com
Subject: Office Clerk

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: August 23, 2019 • **CLOSING DATE:** September 09, 2019
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2019-005	CDBG-DR Planning and Program Finance Manager	UNGRADED $50,000.00 to $60,000.00-per annum

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
OPENING DATE: August 20, 2019 CLOSING DATE: September 04, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2019-004	Special Assistant for Housing and Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Programs	UNGRADED $40,000.00 to $45,000.00-per annum

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

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For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

$950K more eyed for CUC's fuel tank farm

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government is asking the federal court for permission to add $950,000 more to fund multiple fuel-related improvements to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s fuel tank farm for Power Plant 4.

O'Brien

If the request is approved, the total funding ceiling for the project will reach $1.55 million; its original funding ceiling was $600,000.

The change would require amending an existing task order, Task Order 16, as outlined in a court-mandated stipulated order.

The original Task Order 16 consists of the purchase, shipment, and installation of two 20,000-gallon shop-built horizontal fuel tanks to replac the corroded horizontal tanks at Power Plant 4.

Bradley R. O'Brien, senior trial attorney of the U.S. Department of Justice's Environmental Enforcement Section, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Friday that the horizontal cylindrical tanks have already been delivered to the CNMI's port during the week of Aug. 12, and will be installed soon.

O'Brien said the amended Task Order 16 will include, among other works, replacing the existing vertical storage tanks with the new tanks and associated infrastructure.

He said the approved Task Order 16 includes $600,000 in court registry funding.

Amended Task Order 16, he said, includes an additional $950,000 that is proposed to be grant-funded, subject to the approval of the grant stakeholders (the CNMI and the Department of the Interior).

According to Gilbane Federal, the court-appointed Engineering and Environmental Management Company, the bulk fuel storage at Power Plant 4 for diesel used in power generation consists of four aboveground storage tanks (two horizontal tanks and two vertical tanks) within a common secondary containment (fuel farm).

The EEMC said these bulk fuel storage tanks are corroded and, if not replaced, will require extensive repairs and improvements to bring the tanks into compliance with applicable American Petroleum Institute standards.

DLNR wants to build boating safety warehouse, ramp

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources is planning to build a boating safety warehouse and a ramp using a federal grant.

DLNR informed the Commonwealth Ports Authority recently that the warehouse and ramp will be used for rescue operations by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Pete P. Reyes, who chairs the CPA board's Committee on Seaport Facilities, urged the board at a recent committee meeting to consider DLNR's plan

According to the minutes of the meeting, board vice chair Roman Tudela stated that CPA is planning to request for proposals for the Echo Dock in Lower Base and this warehouse will be near that area.

Reyes suggested discussing the matter with DLNR.

CPA director Barrie Toves agreed with Tudela about the lack of space at Echo Dock. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-014, Rev.1

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PRIMARY SCREEN, GRIT & FOG REMOVAL EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply and delivery of Primary Screen, Grit and Fog Removal Equipment for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-014, Rev.1, Supply and Delivery of Primary Screen, Grit and Fog Removal Equipment for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant, Saipan"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 16, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-025

ROTA WATER CAVE ENCLOSURE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water Cave Enclosure in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the installation of a new concrete CMU block wall enclosure, screened aluminum doors, drain pipes, fencing upgrades; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Public Law 20-61.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 30 , 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-025, Rota Water Cave Enclosure"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 19, 2019**. Bid Submissions will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:15 AM (ChST) the same day. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety
company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 3, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Edgar Tuazon, Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address edgar.tuazon@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-031

SAN VICENTE WATER TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Construction of San Vicente Water Tank Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consist of removal of existing 0.5 million gallon steel tank, yard piping, concrete vaults, and all other appurtenances; one (1) additional boring at the center of the existing tank; design and construction of the new 0.75 million gallon pre-stressed concrete water tank and foundation; installation of new water tank piping, valve vaults, control valves, and other appurtenances; construction of new perimeter security fencing and facility lighting; construction of new asphalt concrete access road; and installation of temporary storage tanks at the San Vicente Tank site. The project also includes installation of PSV station with flowmeter at the Dandan Tank site. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **August 21, 2019** at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-031, San Vicente Water Tank Replacement Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 9:00 AM (ChST) September 6, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **August 22, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Kirztie Reyes, Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address kirztie.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Beverly T. Dela Cruz (Ana Tydingco) (collectively "Trustor"), on or about January 31, 1994, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 8,1994 under Document No. 94-377 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 016 K 13, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 916 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 016 K 01, DATED APRIL 7, 1988, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 88-1096, DATED APRIL 8, 1988, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **August 26, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan**, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Forty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty and 16/100 ($43,980.16)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected**.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2019.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Donovan San Nicolas Borja (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 6, 2006, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on September 12, 2006 under Document No. 06-2244 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 107 T 167, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 898 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 107 T 03, DATED JANUARY 14, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-491, DATED FEBRUARY 4, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **August 26, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan**, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Seven and 79/100 ($115,387.79)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected**.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2019.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Juan K. Taitano (Victoria K. Taitano/Jose L. Taitano) (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 23, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 23, 1985 under Document No. 85-2139 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 006 H 07, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 599 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 006 H 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 697, ON THE 1ST DAY OF MARCH, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **August 26, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan**, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Eighty-One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Nine and 71/100 ($81,689.71)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected**.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2019.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Mary N. Taitano (Henry R. Taitano/Beatrice P. Villafuerte) (collectively "Trustor"), on or about January 4, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on January 10, 1985 under Document No. 85-0078 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 005 I 134, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 1,037 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 005 I 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NO. 16707 ON MARCH 11, 1983, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **August 26, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan**, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Ninety-Five Thousand One Hundred Fifteen and 61/100 ($95,115.61)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected**.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2019.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

MCS student honored at NSHSS event

Mount Carmel School student Maria Ayuyu was recently recognized for her academic accomplishments at the National Society for High School Scholar's Day 2019 in Washington, D.C. The annual event was held at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center from Aug. 9 to 10, 2019.

The National Society for High School Scholars, or NSHSS, is an academic honor society, committed to recognizing and serving the highest-achieving student scholars in more than 26,000 high schools across 170 countries. With access to resources and a network of more than 1.7 million exceptional peers spanning high school to college and career, NSHSS scholars embody academic dedication and outstanding leadership in their schools, workplaces, and communities.

During the event, participants were able to network with their peers and professionals, gain insight during a college and career exhibition, and to take advantage of mentorship opportunities. By the end of the event, students were awarded for their academic achievements and fully inducted into the NSHSS.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to be in such a prestigious society," said Ayuyu. "After being in such a big area with people from various ethnic backgrounds, I developed a tremendous amount of respect for people from all parts of the world."

Mount Carmel School student, Maria Ayuyu, left, stands with a colleague during the National Society for High School Scholar's Day 2019 in Washington, D.C.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

When asked how Mount Carmel School helped her prepare to join the NSHSS, Ayuyu said, "MCS helped me prepare for this event in ways of support. The school taught me to strive for greater things because there will always be room for improvement."

Mount Carmel School president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said, "I am very proud of Maria and all of our students that use their ambition to take on any personal and professional opportunities that come their way."

Many students from Mount Carmel School have participated in local and national academic opportunities to expand in their personal and professional capacity. In addition to the NSHSS, students have participated in the Junior Statesmen of America, National Speech and Debate Association, the International Thespians Society, a CSI program at George Mason University, and University of Southern California's Creative Writing Summer Program.

For more information about Mount Carmel School, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Ana C. Muna (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 13, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 16, 1998 under Document No. 98-731 & 98-737 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 002 G 185, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 945 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 002 G 05 DATED MAY 31, 1989, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 90-1902, DATED MAY 14, 1990, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, **on August 26, 2019 , at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan**, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Ninety-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Seven and 15/100 ($98,767.15)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2019.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Newly A. Agulto and Maria Rosa A. Agulto (collectively "Trustor"), on or about February 14, 2006, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 17, 2006 under Document No. 06-377 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 309, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 784 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 011 G 06 DATED DECEMBER 1, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4414, DATED DECEMBER 16, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **August 26, 2019**, at **10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan**, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **One Hundred Six Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Six and 89/100 ($106,296.89)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2019.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Vera Lynn O. Manglona (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 20, 2001, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 2, 2001 under Document No. 01-2162 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 330 R 322, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 838 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 330 R 08, DATED NOVEMBER 19, 1996 COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 92-746, DATED APRIL 02, 1997, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **August 26, 2019 , at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan**, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **One Hundred Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Nine and 07/100 ($117,979.07)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of June , 2019.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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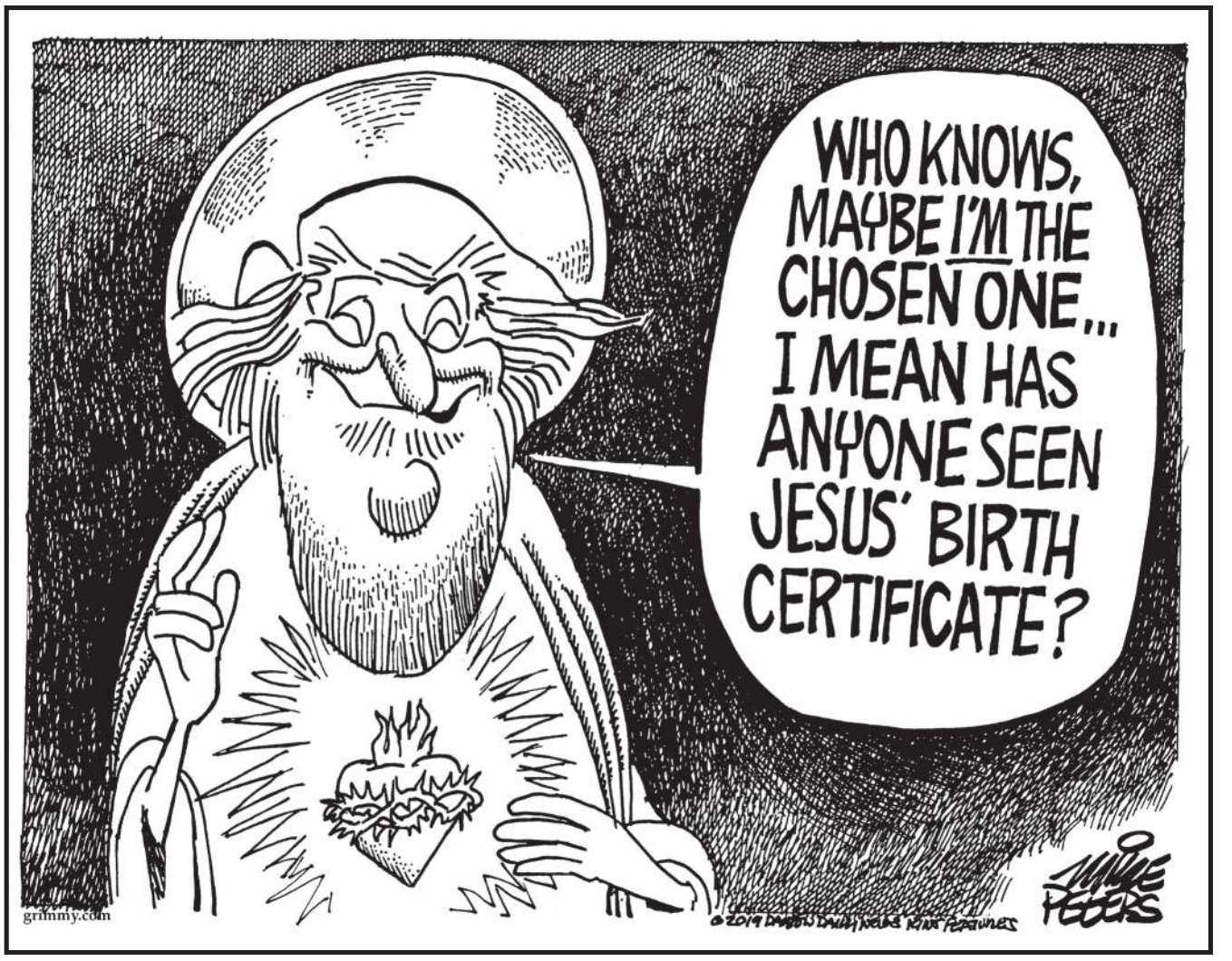

EDITORIAL

Brazil's president scoffs while the Amazon burns

The Amazonian rainforest in Brazil, it's often said, serves as the Earth's lungs, taking in huge amounts of carbon dioxide and breathing out oxygen. Now those lungs are ablaze.

Some 74,000 fires have raged this year in the world's largest rainforest, about 80% more than at this time last year, according to the Brazilian research institute that monitors the Amazon. These are not natural wildfires, environmental experts warn. They are set by farmers, loggers and other inhabitants who are aggressively clearing forests for agricultural development, at terrible cost to the Amazon's health _ and ultimately, the planet's.

Point much of the blame for this slow-burning catastrophe at Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who sees rainforest protection as an impediment to economic growth. Since January, when Bolsonaro took office, the amount of deforestation climbed 39% over the previous year. He accused his own government's scientists of exaggerating the pace of destruction and claimed, without evidence, that nongovernmental organizations are setting the fires in order to film them.

The Amazon is home to many indigenous people and at least 10% of the world's known plant and animal species, representing the richest biodiversity of any ecosystem on the planet. Those forests also act as a critical defense against global warming because they absorb so much carbon dioxide _ cumulatively they hold about a decade's worth of the planet's emissions, Paulo Moutinho of the Woods Hole Research Center told The Washington Post. "If you continue to deforest ... you are releasing this huge amount of carbon to the atmosphere," he said.

Over the years Brazil has tried to protect the environment and slow deforestation. Bolsonaro, who was elected last year, defiantly changed course. "The Amazon is ours, not yours," he told a foreign journalist last month. Technically true, but with ownership comes a deep responsibility to the planet's well-being. There's a point in the deforestation process at which the Amazon would no longer be able to sustain its existence as a functioning rainforest. One bad result: more global warming.

Brazil's president owes his own nation, and the world, a better fate.

(c) 2019 *Chicago Tribune*

Are your genes to blame for mental illness?

By PATRICK D. HAHN
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Headlines on the purported genetic basis for mental illness—like this one from The Washington Post: "Some children born with the genetic risk for schizophrenia, scientists say"—have been staples of scientific journalism for years now. But what do they really mean?

Is mental illness really just a matter of bad luck in the genetic lottery?

Let's focus on schizophrenia, as this condition generally is considered among the most severe and intractable mental illnesses, and the one most likely to have a biological or genetic basis. If the case for genetic determinism fails here, it is probably even weaker elsewhere.

The case of the "22q11.2 deletion syndrome" is instructive. This is the deletion of a tiny part of chromosome 22, some 30 to 50 different genes, correlated with a whole host of physical abnormalities and somatic illnesses. In addition, about 20% of individuals with this mutation become schizophrenic, as opposed to about 1% of the general population.

But that means the majority of people with this mutation never become schizophrenic. And this mutation is, fortunately, uncommon. The 22q deletion and a handful of even rarer structural variants with even smaller effect sizes account for less than 2%% of total cases of schizophrenia.

Scientists have known about this mutation since 1981. Since then, the new technique of genome-wide association studies has enabled them to go over the human genome with a fine-toothed comb. And what have they found?

They certainly have not found any genetic variants with anywhere near the effect size of the 22q deletion. All the ones they have found have a far weaker correlation with schizophrenia—on the order of a one in 500 increase in absolute risk or less. In aggregate, all these genes account for only a small proportion of the risk for schizophrenia.

If there are more such genes out there waiting to be discovered, their correlation with schizophrenia most likely is weaker still. These are not disease genes, as genes for Tay-Sachs disease or cystic fibrosis are. Rather, they are a part of the normal range of human genetic variation.

Our genes are not our destiny. There is no such thing as a gene that makes it impossible not to be schizophrenic.

So, what is the cause of schizophrenia and other mental illnesses? There is evidence that these conditions correlate with physical, sexual and emotional abuse, along with other categories of adverse childhood experience. This correlation is robust, reliable and dose-dependent. It cuts across national boundaries, income brackets and ethnic identities. It has been verified again and again in prospective cohort studies; population-based, cross-sectional studies; and case-control studies.

Instead of inquiring of the mentally ill "What's wrong with those people?" perhaps we should be asking them directly "Who did what to you?"

All that genetic researchers have added to our understanding is that individuals vary in their susceptibility to trauma—and that a small part of that variation is heritable. That's not very surprising. Probably anyone with experience of life as it is lived could have guessed as much.

It's not clear where this research is supposed to lead. If a child is being abused, do we stop the abuse, or do we give her a blood test? And if the test indicates that she is at low risk for schizophrenia, do we leave her in the abusive situation?

There are dozens—perhaps hundreds—of mutations that are (weakly) correlated with schizophrenia, and most of these are rare, which enormously complicates the task of using genetic research to find a pharmacological cure for this condition. So-called "antipsychotic" medications may tranquilize these patients in the short term, but there is overwhelming evidence that their long-term use leads to worse outcomes than if they had never been used.

Where do we go from here? The fact that schizophrenia and other mental illnesses have their roots in personal and social factors suggests that they might best be treated on a personal and social level.

Indeed, the Open Dialogue Therapy pioneered by Jaako Seikkula and his colleagues in Finnish Western Lapland has shown great promise in ameliorating these conditions. Dr. Seikkula told me that this treatment has caused the incidence of first-time episodes of schizophrenia in that part of the world to decline by an astonishing 90%, most likely because this prompt and thorough intervention leads to an early amelioration of psychotic symptoms, which must persist for six months before a diagnosis of schizophrenia can be rendered.

When I asked Dr. Seikkula if Open Dialogue Therapy is a cure for schizophrenia, his answer was short and straight to the point: Yes.

Why isn't this front-page headline news?

Patrick D. Hahn is the author of Madness and Genetics Determinism: Is Mental Illness in Our Genes? (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019). He can be reached at patrickhahn@hotmail.com.

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Community college is the answer to an affordable education

By DUSTIN SIGGINS
THE BALTIMORE SUN

If you are a middle-class or poor parent, the college admissions scandal may seem like a steel door closing on your child's future. The very rich bribed their kids' way into elite schools, preventing average Americans from the financial, professional and other opportunities available at elite universities.

While these people spent $400,000 to forge documents, you're struggling to save $400 for your child's education. While they want elite education for the family's reputation, you want your children to have a better life than you do.

The great thing is that your children's future is not closed off or limited by lacking access to elite schools. You can help your child get a great education that provides for their professional future and sets them up to become a multimillionaire without even a second thought about so-called "elite" colleges.

One path to success is to take advantage of the community college systems in Maryland, D.C. and Virginia. In both states and the District, students who meet certain grade-point averages and other criteria receive near-automatic acceptance at four-year universities. This means that your children can get a solid education at an affordable price—and still have a good name to bank on once they graduate.

JOSEPH PREZIOSO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

Actress Felicity Huffman is escorted by police into court, where she pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud before Judge Talwani at John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse in Boston on May 13, 2019.

In Virginia, the "Guaranteed Transfer" program offers students at any of Virginia's 23 community colleges who graduate with certain grade-point averages and an associate's degree automatic acceptance at the state's 30 public four-year schools. I know several college students who took advantage of this great education program to save money on tuition and continue living at home instead of paying for a room on-campus.

Maryland students have a similar opportunity. Unless four-year universities exceed capacity, community college students in Maryland who have an associate's degree or 56 semester-hours of credit with a GPA of 2.0 or higher will have automatic acceptance into a public four-year university.

The District of Columbia's transfer program is likewise very flexible and the perfect opportunity to open the doors for your child's success.

Many Americans look down on community colleges. However, many community college professors teach at the four-year level, so the education is often exactly the same. Other professors have amazing real-world experience, such as my entrepreneur father who taught several courses on business and financial planning at a community college near my New Hampshire hometown.

The financial savings of these transfer programs are significant. The Maryland community college in-county average tuition was $4,324 in 2017. The average cost of tuition and fees for community colleges in Virginia is $4,620.

Contrast this with the cost of a four-year university. Maryland's average annual in-state four-year tuition was $20,405 in 2017. Virginia's colleges were virtually the same, at $20,337 for tuition in 2017.

This means that the average student will save nearly $16,000 per year by going to a community college for two years prior to attending a four-year university. Assuming a 5% interest rate and $300 per month in repayment, that's an addition savings of approximately $10,000 in interest payments!

So far, so good, right? A solid education at an affordable price while avoiding thousands of dollars in long-term loans.

Now, let's set up your children to become millionaires.

Like most parents, you're likely to provide significant financial help for your child/children's college. Since they are going to a community college first and then an affordable four-year university for their final two years of school, you'll have a lot more money to spend on anything else.

How about investing $5,000 each year for four years in your child's retirement? Stock market and mutual fund investments average about 11% in gain each year over any 25-year period. According to an official compounding interest calculator of the U.S. federal government, those four chunks of $5,000 will be worth over $2.6 million when your child turns 67, and over $5.5 million when your child turns 74 years old.

As the law-breaking rich and a class-action lawsuit against the schools fall like dominoes in court, non-rich DMV residents don't have to look at the admissions scandal with anything but hope. Elite schools may have turned their back on us, but we never needed them. Let's get your kids their American Dream.

Dustin Siggins (dustinsiggins@gmail.com) is founder of the Virginia-based communications firm Proven Media Solutions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fed ed

I am writing to simply suggest that federal agencies be proactive rather than reactive on the topic of local marijuana legislation and educate the community on the do's and don'ts behind the passage of Public Law 20-66 and, subsequently, P.L. 21-5. I have heard of several posts on social media locally in which cannabidiol aka CBD oil is being actively advertised. This is highly concerning as ignorance is not a reliable defense. The first thing in my thought were the words of Jesus Christ himself during his crucifixion: "Forgive them, father, for they know not what they are doing."

I feel that the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office should work on educating people on the what is legally permissible. Our youngsters often do not understand issues regarding jurisdictional authority. We've seen cases of that already in Guam, merely in transit. Because Guam and the CNMI legalized it, the natural assumption would be that it is allowable. As we've found out, that assumption is wrong due to the mere fact that the said individual was on a plane under the purview of the FAA. If one were to import such items via the postal service, they too would undergo the same legal difficulties. Let's list a few of the potential charges: interstate commerce if they shipped it in by any transportation system governed by the U.S.; if the item was purchased by credit card or any electronic means, they'll probably be charged with wire fraud; as it is within federal jurisdiction you'd get the normal trafficking of a controlled substance with the intent to distribute; you'll also get the local side as well for failure to apply for the cannabis license, to name a few of the charges.

Our youngsters need to know these laws are for local production and not importation. I would like to see responsible policing as we are spending far too much in incarcerating for drug possession charges. For marijuana? I can understand the harsher drugs, but marijuana? Why should making the arrest be the first priority? We should educate our people to avoid needless litigation.

Ross Manglona
Dandan, Saipan

'The Chosen One'

So he's been dubbed "King of the Jews," and now calls himself "The Chosen One." Hey, Trump supporters, need any more proof President Trump is mentally unstable?...and I'm "King of the World!" You don't have to be of any political persuasion to see there is something not right with the man who needs to be removed from office ASAP.

Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

Trump Tweeter Tales and Prima Facie Prevails

Liar Lawbreaker and International Shame Maker

You say you want a conman, braggart, liar, tax cheat, child thief
who upends nuclear negotiations when they come to his table
who insults soldier's families, lawyers, even foreign merchant chief
living in a bigly bling bubble he creates his own narcissistic fable.

You turn on your computer screen and out pops his bloated face
you hear him deride anyone who speaks against him in opposition
you hear him make offhand remarks denigrating another race
you see him fire life-long civil servants from many positions.

You don't like what you are reading and tell me he's our POTUS
you don't like admitting you're tired of him being so egregious
dislike his dalliance with dictators and constant hyperbolic quotes
as courts from coast to coast notify him of multiple lawsuits litigious.

You think of your friends, family, children, stepchildren, and grand
and wonder just how much more of him our tired nation can withstand.

Hyperbolically Hoisting His Own Petard

Bragging about his own (petard) farts, twaddling tweets and false starts

Red herrings, blue herrings, new and old herrings too
one fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish, twenty three skidoo
all out the mouth and twaddling tweets of POTUS 45
a fish rotting from the head down and that ain't no jive.

Awash in an abysmal swamp he stinks with a cabinet of slime
never draining, complaining he fires and refills it all the time
glorifying, repeatedly lying, and constantly hoisting his own petard
insulting people, American cities, nations, he plays his Trump card.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

So full of himself he plugs and fills up his own golden toilet
he shat in his own red MAGA hat now he's gonna have to boil it
Michelle Obama is right when she says,'if they go low we go high'
but I have a hard time finding anything good to say about this guy.

There are many fish swimming in America's polluted D.C sea
cast a thoughtful vote in 2020 – sink or swim and we will see.

Epitaph for a Fractious One 45th Wit

Narcissism of the most maxed out malignant kind
was just about all he was ever capable of performing
self-proclaimed King of Debt with a *mau mau mind
who continued daily deliberate deformation of democracy
frenetically focused on himself, of others he was blind
behind chain link cages he left innocent children swarming.

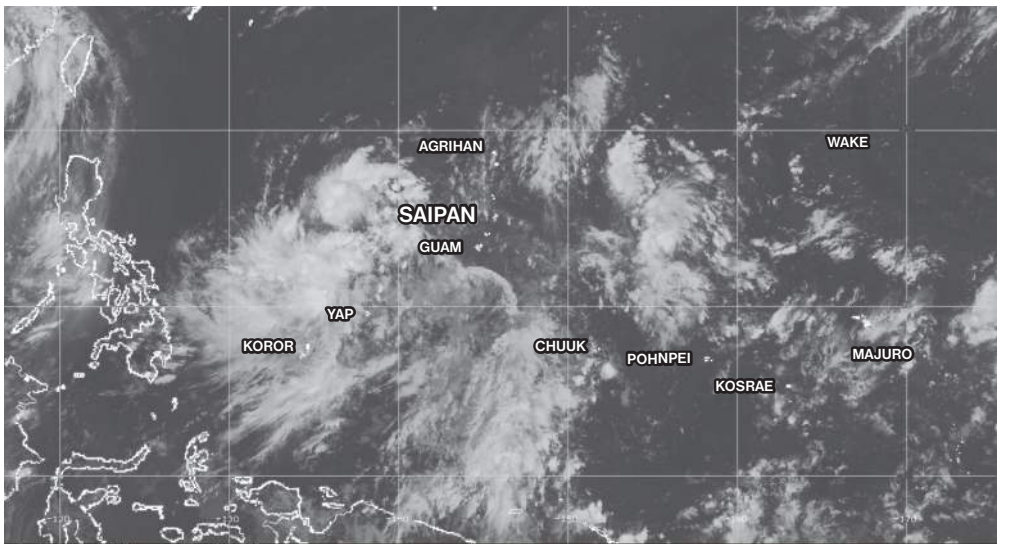
Mau-mau *means to intimidate (as an official) by hostile confrontation or threats. Originally written on July 30, 2019.*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated morning showers, then isolated showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89° 78°	89° 77°	89° 77°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 12:17 PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show only a few showers moving through the Marianas early this afternoon. The broad circulation in Yap State continues its westward drift and the bulk of showers to its north remain well west of the Marianas. Few showers are seen to the east and south while a drier atmosphere and upper-level winds are preventing any sustained deep convection. Thus, have reduced showers for today and decreased the likelihood of thunderstorms to only a slight chance as a brief thunderstorm still can`t be ruled out. Have left scattered showers in for tonight, but reduced POPs to 30. A further decrease in POPs may be worth considering for the afternoon forecast package due to the lack of any notable surface features near the Marianas that would generate a substantive increase in showers.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Thunderstorm	87° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	80° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 39°
Miami	Thunderstorm	88° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	92° / 76°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	90° / 79°
Paris	Showers	75° / 57°
Busan	Thunderstorm	82° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	84° / 61°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	89° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°
Tokyo	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	93° / 75°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:23 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.81
10:01 AM	LOW TIDE	0.12
5:28 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.79
10:28 PM	LOW TIDE	1.32

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:24 AM	2:44 PM	-
Tuesday	2:21 AM	3:43 PM	-
Wednesday	3:23 AM	4:42 PM	-
Thursday	4:27 AM	5:39 PM	-
Friday	5:31 AM	6:32 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 15, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Voodoo priest sues Eucon for alleged discrimination

A man who claims to be a voodoo priest is suing Eucon International University for alleged discrimination.

Zaji Zajradhara applied for a job in the business office of Eucon International University, a Christian Bible school on Saipan.

Eucon is a ministry of a Baptist church led by Dr. Christian Wei. The church also operates a K-12 Christian school at the same location.

After he did not get the job, Zajradhara initiated a labor complaint and the school "felt coerced" into agreeing to hire him. Zajradhara did not show up for his first day of workNote: , and when he did appear later in the week, he refused to agree with the school's faith statement that all other employees sign.

Zajradhara then informed school administrators that he is a priest of Houngan, a Haitian form of Voodoo. When it became clear that his beliefs and practices were diametrically opposed to the school's, the administrators sent him a termination letter detailing the incompatibility of witchcraft with the Christian faith.

Zajradhara, through an attorney, initially demanded the equivalent of several years' wages from Eucon after he had spent less than a week on the job. The school declined his demand.

Then the man obtained a right-to-sue notice from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

On Saipan, Zajradhara is so known for filing discrimination suits, some of which have been quickly thrown out of court and others he has been able to settle for thousands of dollars, that the CNMI Legislature recently introduced a resolution calling him a "persona non grata." The resolution states that he has filed dozens of discrimination claims against local businesses.

The Pacific Justice Institute, a non-profit religious rights law firm, is representing the school.

"This case illustrates how well-intended and important workplace discrimination laws can be horribly misused and abused," said Brad Dacus, president of PJI. "We intend to vigorously defend this Bible school as long as it takes to achieve justice."

Matt McReynolds, PJI's lead attorney, said this is a First Amendment case in its truest form.

"No Christian school should ever be forced to hire or pay off a Voodoo priest," McReynolds noted." At a bare minimum, the First Amendment means a religious institution must be allowed to choose those who will affirm and advance their mission and beliefs."

PJI is being assisted locally on Saipan by Joseph E. Horey of the firm O'Connor Berman Horey & Banes, LLC. ***(www1.cbn.com)***

Girl scouts get their junior ranger badges

Scouts of the Northern Mariana Island Girls Scouts are all smiles after receiving their first ever badge last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

IVA MAURIN

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Northern Mariana Island Girls Scouts got their first ever badges last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

The National Park Service presents the badge, called the Girl Scout Junior Ranger Badge, when girl scouts participate in organized educational activities or volunteer service projects at national parks.

NPS superintendent Barbara Alberti said it is important for the Girl Scouts to learn about their local history and the environment, and for them to begin service learning at a young age so that they understand as citizens that they should give back to the communities.

"It is also a good opportunity for the girls to meet other girls around the island and to see women in positions they may aspire to be. They might choose to become park rangers when they grow up," Alberti said.

The Girl Scouts spent their past three Saturdays learning about the National Parks Service, which runs the American Memorial Park and other national parks, and did community work. They were oriented at the park, explored historical sites around the island, learned about way-finding (using a compass), and even removed weeds at the amphitheater.

Brooke Nevitt, lead ranger at the American Memorial Park, said that part of the Girl Scout badge is to give back, so the girls did community service right at the park to help weed the planters at the amphitheater.

NMI Girl Scout president Tania P. David highlighted for the young scouts the concept of community service during the badge ceremony.

"We realized the importance of this [activity] especially after Yutu. ...What better way to get you to do something that would benefit our community? If you see that no one is taking care of the park or the beach, or the environment, then it's up to you individually to do your part," David said, addressing the girl scouts. David also thanked the rangers, volunteers, and parents for dedicating time to take their children to the different activities.

Come November, the girls will get busy with Girl Scout cookies, which is intended to teach them about entrepreneurship and money management, and would also create opportunities for public speaking and enhances confidence. The cookie sales will also help provide funding for the NMI Girl Scouts.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMDC membership meeting tomorrow

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. invites all members and interested parties to the corporation's general membership meeting tomorrow, Aug. 27, at 6pm at the Carolinian Utt Pavillion in Garapan.

The agenda will include NMD Corp.'s mission and accomplishments and committee reports.

Come to learn about your benefits as an NMD and what we can do to secure them. Share your ideas as well! ***(PR)***

Military training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Aug. 26: From 8:30am to 11:59pm
- Aug. 27 and 29: From 12am to 12:30am and 10:30am to 2:30pm.
- Aug. 28: From 10:30am to 2:30pm and 8:30pm to 11:59pm
- Aug. 30: From 8:30pm to 11:59pm
- Aug. 31: From 12am to 12:30am

This training supports aircrew combat readiness and is critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be within a 12-nautical-mile radius of the island.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. ***(PR)***

More Guam tax refunds out

HAGATÑA, Guam—The Guam government's Department of Revenue and Taxation and Department of Administration will mail today, Aug. 26, 944 tax refund checks totaling approximately $2.6 million, including refunds garnished to repay government debts, for error-free returns filed on or before Feb. 18, 2019.

For inquiries, contact the Income Tax Branch, Department of Revenue and Taxation at 635-1840 or Director Edward Birn, Department of Administration at 475-1250. ***(PR)***

Club 200 theme is Latin Nights

The 30th American Red Cross Club 200 fundraising dinner is scheduled for Oct. 12, a Saturday, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. This year's theme will be "Latin Nights" and feature décor, dancing, costumes and food from throughout Latin America. There will be salsa dancing and costume contests, *piñata* special prizes, and lots of door prizes. Support the Red Cross humanitarian work by purchasing tickets. Tickets are $100 each or $150 for VIP and available from ticket sellers or by calling the Red Cross office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

School orientation at DMS

Dandan Middle School is inviting all students, parents, and guardians to attend the back-to-school orientation on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019.

- 6th Grade: 1:30pm–2:30pm
- 7th Grade: 2:30pm–3:30pm
- 8th Grade: 3:30pm–4:30pm

The initial gathering will be held in the school's cafeteria. Soon after, students who have registered will receive their class schedules and meet the grade level team. The school team will discuss the rules of the school, share expectations, middle school grading policy, and other matters.

Classes will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 3, 8:30am–3:30pm. ***(PR)***

Business

Naked Fish: Saipan's version of a pub

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Local favorite Naked Fish relocated from its old home in Susupe to a new location in Garapan across the American Memorial Park last May.

While the big move was geared toward attracting a wider clientele, it didn't change Naked Fish's vision for the last 15 years and that is to remain Saipan's version of a local pub where people can find solace and cheer after a long and busy day.

"There was so much damage in the old location after Super Typhoon Yutu so the move was inevitable. Construction in Garapan started in January and despite the shortage in labor and materials, we were able to open in May. The place now is much smaller compared to our space in Susupe, but it's cozier and we are in the heart of Garapan so we are easily accessible," said general manager and co-owner Joe Guerrero.

"The move gave us a chance to add more like new furniture and décor plus all the photos around are about the Marianas taken by a local photographer, Joe Kuan. We have a nice, clean environment and good food that locals, working professionals, expats, and visitors will enjoy," he added.

Just like any other pub, Naked Fish has this welcoming and relaxed atmosphere—easy lights and music, tall tables, bar stools, a wide array of cocktails, beer, and a specific selection of beers on tap.

"As for food, we still have the local favorites that have been in the menu for the past 15 years like naked garlic fish, garlic octopus, fried fish, and titiyas… we didn't want to veer away from the classic stuff," said chef Inos Hocog.

"On top of that, we stretched it out and used it in different ways just to give people variety. We also know that people want substantial meals so we have pasta and sandwiches," Hocog added.

Inos said if there's one thing Naked Fish is known for is that it showcases local food. "Since we are now in Garapan, closer to the hotels and tourists, my philosophy is since Saipan is a small island, we should be showcasing our own as opposed to catering to the tastes of countries where our tourists come from."

"I think the lack of local cuisine or local chefs showing their kind of food is something that needs to be tapped into. We got a lot of great talents that needs exposure so Naked Fish does just that—it offers local food with a twist made by local guys," Hocog added.

With the new location, Naked Fish is also leveling up with plans to have a space for fine dining at the second floor. "This space can accommodate dinners and parties good for 25-30 people… The course down menu will be set in prefixed prices… if guests want a signature dish from our local chefs at Naked Fish with many years of hotel experience, we can create that for them," Hocog said.

"We can also serve food from our regular menu for private parties… our motto in the kitchen is 'keeping it fresh' so everything that we serve are fresh and have clean flavors—simple dishes but full of flavor," Hocog added.

A patio is also currently under construction for people who want to drink and dine al fresco.

Guerrero extends his thanks to the community for their continued patronage for the last 15 years. "We are humbled and appreciate everyone for the support… for our part, we showcase local food and talent and we want to give people value for their money with the quality of drinks and food that we serve," he said.

Naked Fish is open Monday -Wednesday from 5:30pm to 10pm and Thursday to Saturday from 5:30pm to 12mn. For reservations, call (670) 235-3474.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Naked garlic fish is Naked Fish's famous dish that has been on their menu for the past 15 years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The cozy interiors of the new Naked Fish located in Garapan intends to delight and put people at easy after a long day at work.

FHB hires Ward as VP, Business Banking team leader

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank chair and CEO Bob Harrison announced that Kieron "Pip" Ward has joined First Hawaiian Bank as a vice president and business banking team leader in its Maite Branch.

Ward

Ward joins the bank with over 25 years of commercial banking experience throughout Guam, Tonga, Kiribati, and Fiji, including roles as senior relationship manager, head of Commercial, Corporate Relationship manager, and head of Small Business. He also has experience with asset management.

"We are very happy to have Kieron join our business banking team and First Hawaiian Bank family," said Ed Untalan, First Hawaiian Bank senior vice president and Guam-CNMI Region manager. "He is a great addition to the team and his experience and knowledge in the industry is an asset for the bank."

Ward will lead a team of business banking officers and business banking service representatives while managing a portfolio of the Bank's commercial customers in the Guam and CNMI Region.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.FHB.com) was founded in 1858 as Bishop & Co. and today is Hawaii's leading bank offering a comprehensive suite of banking services to consumer and commercial customers, including deposit products, loans, wealth management, insurance, credit cards, and private banking. The bank operates 53 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. First Hawaiian, Inc. (NASDAQ: FHB), the parent company of First Hawaiian Bank, is the largest publicly traded company based in Hawaii. ***(PR)***

Trump raises tariffs on Chinese goods as trade war escalates

WASHINGTON (AP)—Escalating his trade fight with China, President Donald Trump has raised retaliatory tariffs and ordered American companies to consider alternatives to doing business there.

He also blamed his appointed head of the U.S. central bank, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, for the state of the domestic economy and wondered who was a "bigger enemy" of the U.S.—Powell or Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Even by the turbulent standards of the Trump presidency, his actions Friday, all via Twitter, were notable. They sent markets sharply lower and added to a sense of uncertainty during his visit to France for a meeting of global economic powers.

Trump's move came after Beijing announced it had raised taxes on U.S. products.

The president attacked the Fed for not lowering rates at an informal gathering in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where no such action was under consideration. Powell, speaking to central bankers, gave vague assurances that the Fed would act to sustain the nation's economic expansion, but noted that Fed had limited tools to deal with damage from the trade dispute.

Trump said he would be raising planned tariffs on $300 billion in Chinese goods from 10% to 15%. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative also said existing tariffs on another $250 billion in Chinese imports would go from 25% to 30% on Oct. 1 after receiving feedback from the public.

Late Friday, Trump told reporters at the White House: "I have no choice. We're not going to lose close to a trillion dollars a year to China." He insisted that "tariffs are working out very well for us. People don't understand that yet."

The Chinese government, in a statement posted on the Commerce Ministry's website Saturday, railed against "this kind of unilateral, bullying trade protectionism" urged the Trump administration to "immediately stop its mistaken course of action, or else the U.S. will have to bear all the consequences."

The impact of higher tariffs could be sweeping for consumers.

Trump's latest escalation will impose a burden on many American households. Even before he announced an increase, J.P. Morgan had estimated that Trump's tariffs would cost the average household roughly $1,000 a year if he proceeded with his threats.

Trump appeared caught off-guard by China's tariff increase, and was angry when he gathered with his trade team in the Oval Office before departing for France, according to two people familiar with the meeting who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose closed-door conversations.

Earlier, the president said he "hereby ordered" U.S. companies to seek alternatives to doing business in China. The White House did not cite what authority the president could use to force private businesses to change their practices.

Businesses large and small joined in a chorus of opposition to the intensifying hostilities.

"It's impossible for businesses to plan for the future in this type of environment," said David French, senior vice president of government relations at the National Retail Federation. "The administration's approach clearly isn't working, and the answer isn't more taxes on American businesses and consumers. Where does this end?"

If Trump goes ahead with all the tariffs he's announced, they would cover just about everything China ships to the United States.

China imposed new tariffs of 5% and 10% on $75 billion of U.S. products in retaliation. Like Trump's, the Chinese tariffs will be imposed in two batches—first on Sept. 1 and then on Dec. 15.

Nation

Illinois patient's death may be first in US tied to vaping

CHICAGO (AP)—Health officials said Friday that an Illinois patient who contracted a serious lung disease after vaping has died and that they consider it the first death in the United States linked to the smoking alternative that has become popular with teens and young adults.

The Illinois Department of Public Health the adult patient was hospitalized after falling ill following vaping, though it didn't give other information about the person, including the patient's name, age, hometown or date of death.

The state received the report of the death Thursday, said Dr. Jennifer Layden, the Illinois agency's chief medical officer.

Officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday that 193 people in 22 states have contracted severe respiratory illnesses after vaping. However, they said a clear-cut common cause of the illnesses hasn't been identified and that they are being called "potential cases" that are still under investigation.

All of the sickened have been teens or adults who had used an electronic cigarette or some other kind of vaping device. Doctors say the illnesses resemble an inhalation injury, with the lungs apparently reacting to a caustic substance. So far, infectious diseases have been ruled out.

The illnesses have been reported since late June, but the total count has risen quickly in the past week. That may be partly because cases that weren't initially being linked to vaping have begun to be grouped that way.

Among the newest reports are two in Connecticut, four in Iowa and six in Ohio. Health officials are asking doctors and hospitals to tell state health officials about any possible vaping-related lung disease cases they encounter.

In its news release, the Illinois agency said the number of people who contracted a respiratory illness after vaping had doubled in the past week, to 22.

"The severity of illness people are experiencing is alarming and we must get the word out that using e-cigarettes and vaping can be dangerous," IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said in the release.

Electronic cigarettes have been described as a less dangerous alternative to regular cigarettes, but health officials have been worried about kids using them. Most of the concern has focused on nicotine, which health officials say is harmful to developing brains and might make kids more likely to take up cigarettes.

But some vaping products have been found to contain other potentially harmful substances, including flavoring chemicals and oils used for vaping marijuana, experts say.

A number of the people who got sick had vaped products containing THC, the high-inducing ingredient in marijuana. CDC officials said they do not have a breakdown of how many of the sick people vaped THC.

The American Vaping Association, an advocacy group, issued a statement arguing that "tainted, black market THC products" are to blame. The group called on federal officials to clear nicotine vaping products of suspicion.

ACROSS THE NATION

8-year-old killed, 3 others injured in St. Louis shooting

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Police say an 8-year-old girl has been killed and three others injured in a shooting near a high school in St. Louis, bringing the number of children killed by gunfire in the city to at least a dozen since June. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports the shooting happened about 8 p.m. Friday outside Harold's Chop Suey restaurant in the city's Academy neighborhood. Police Chief John Hayden said the girl, identified by police as Jurnee Thompson, and her family had attended a football exhibition about a block away at Soldan High School. Hayden says fights broke out at the event, and police tried to clear the area when shots rang out Police say the injured included two 16-year-old boys and 64-year-old woman. Hayden says "two or three" of the people who were shot were related.

Police: 7 adults shot at child's birthday party in Maryland

CAMP SPRINGS, Md. (AP)—A Maryland police chief says seven adults were injured when shots were fired at a child's birthday party a few miles southeast of the nation's capital. Prince George's County police Cpl. Nicholas Clayton tells The Associated Press that the shooting occurred Saturday night near the Camp Springs and Morningside areas. Police Chief Hank Stawinski said at a press conference that around 12 people were at a 2-year-old's birthday party when an individual fired shots into the gathering. Police say three of the seven people shot are critically injured, but Stawinski said they're expected to survive. All seven are between the ages of 18 and 20. The chief didn't release information about the suspect, who is still at large. He says there may have been words exchanged before the shooting.

Married only minutes, Texas newlyweds killed in crash

ORANGE, Texas (AP)—Harley Morgan was still wearing his dark suit and Rhiannon Boudreaux her wedding dress when the Texas "childhood sweethearts" were killed in a crash with a truck minutes after they were married. Nineteen-year-old Morgan and 20-year-old Boudreaux were pronounced dead Friday at the scene by the same justice of the peace who had just married them. "I'm talking five minutes. You may kiss the bride," said Orange Police Cpt. Keith Longlois. "The family was right behind them. They were all going out to go to wherever they were going to have their reception," he said. Longlois said they were "childhood sweethearts" who decided to be married by a popular Orange County Justice of the Peace Joy Dubose-Simonton. He said the groom was driving when he tried to exit the driveway of the Justice of The Peace building onto a five-lane highway. A truck pulling a trailer carrying a heavy tractor slammed into their vehicle. The force was so great that witnesses said the car flipped multiple times before coming to rest in a ditch. The driver of the truck was not identified but Longlois said he was cooperating with the investigation and there was no sign of wrongdoing. Drug and alcohol tests would be conducted, he said. "I had to sit there and watch my two babies die," the mother of the groom, LaShawna Morgan, told the *Beaumont Enterprise.*

AP

In this Tuesday, April 10, 2018 photo, Marshfield High School Principal Robert Keuther displays vaping devices that were confiscated from students in such places as restrooms or hallways at the school in Marshfield, Mass.

'Red flag laws' offer tool for preventing some gun violence

After a white supremacist discussed plans on Facebook for a mass shooting at a synagogue, police in Washington used a new law to quickly seize his 12 firearms, long before he was convicted of any crime.

But when a Tennessee father became alarmed about his son after receiving a suicidal text message, he said the police determined they could not take his son's guns away. A few months later, the man showed up at a church and shot seven worshippers one Sunday morning, killing one.

Family members and police routinely face agonizing decisions when otherwise lawful gun owners reveal an impulse to harm themselves or others, and more states are enacting laws that let authorities take away their weapons.

With bipartisan support in many cases, 17 states and Washington D.C. have now passed "red flag laws" that allow the court-ordered removal of guns from people who are considered to be dangerous. The back-to-back shootings that killed 31 people this month in Texas and Ohio have given new momentum to proposals pending in several other states and to a plan in Congress to provide grant money to states that adopt such measures.

In a rare victory for gun control advocates, the laws have spread since the February 2018 shooting that killed 17 students and staff members at a high school in Parkland, Florida. New York's new law took effect Saturday while New Jersey's begins Sept. 1. The proliferation of such laws comes despite opposition from gun rights activists and others who say the measures go too far.

Since most of the laws are new, research on their effectiveness is limited. A study published last year estimated that the two states with the longest-standing laws, Connecticut and Indiana, may have had 500 fewer gun suicides over a decade as a result of the measures. Another study estimated that Connecticut, which adopted its law in 1999 after a mass shooting at the state lottery office, prevented one suicide for every 10 to 20 people subjected to gun seizures.

A study published this week about California's law found 21 examples in which people who had threatened public shootings were successfully disarmed.

In jurisdictions where red flag laws have been aggressively enforced, officials say the measures have likely prevented some suicides, workplace shootings and domestic killings.

"I'm convinced that having this powerful tool gives our communities the ability to step in and prevent some tragedies from happening," said Mara Elliott, the city attorney in San Diego, where more than 300 gun violence restraining orders have been issued in less than two years. "Given the numbers that we are seeing, I think that's startling."

She said the orders have been used to protect people from "all walks of life," including students, employees, intimate partners, parents and children. Those disarmed by red flag orders include a man who made online threats of a mass shooting at a gay bar, a man who told a family member he was going to kill Muslims, and a man who made disturbing statements about guns and immigrants. To grant a final order under California's law, a judge must find evidence that the person poses "significant danger."

Asia

Hong Kong protesters form human chains to call for democracy

HONG KONG (AP)—Supporters of Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement lined the streets and part of the city's harbor front Friday, inspired by a human chain in a historic Baltic states protest against Soviet control 30 years ago.

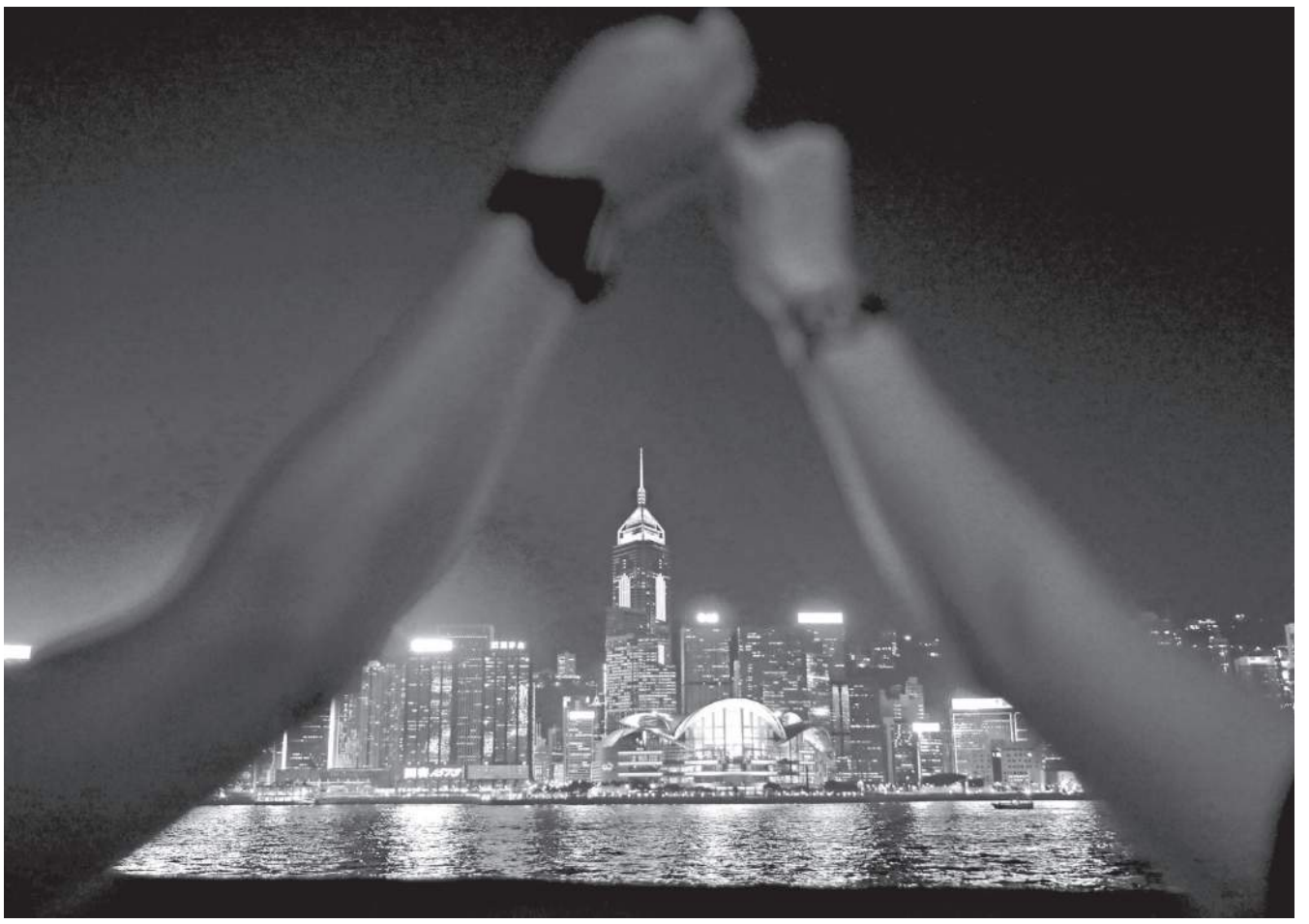
Some raised linked hands while others switched on their smartphone lights and held the devices aloft to create a row of white lights against the nighttime skyline. Organizers hoped the chains, which traced three subway routes, would total 40 kilometers (25 miles) in length.

It was the latest protest in a nearly 11-week-old movement that began with calls to scrap a now-suspended extradition bill and has widened to include demands for full democracy and an independent inquiry into alleged police brutality at protests.

"It actually enraged me, the way that the government, the (city's) chief executive and then the police, how they carry out their jobs," said Michael Ng, who works in finance and joined the chain outside an upscale mall. "Very brutal, I would say. We are talking about human rights here."

Police say their use of tear gas, rubber bullets and bean bag rounds has been necessary to clear streets of protesters who have pelted them with eggs, bricks and gasoline bombs.

In a protest dubbed "The Baltic Way," nearly 2 million Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians formed a human chain more than 600 kilometers (370 miles) long on Aug. 23, 1989.



AP

Demonstrators link hands as they gather at the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront in Hong Kong, Friday, Aug. 23, 2019.

Organizers of "The Hong Kong Way" said it was a show of solidarity against the extradition law and police violence, as well as a plea for international support.

Earlier Friday, accountants marched in support of the pro-democracy movement, while the Canadian Consulate banned its staff from leaving the city on official business after a British Consulate employee was detained in mainland China.

A major trade union confederation said that the head of the cabin crew union at Cathay Dragon airline had been fired in retaliation for supporting the movement, adding to the chill in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The Canadian Consulate didn't say whether the travel restriction for local staff was related to the detention of the British Consulate employee, Simon Cheng Man-kit. He went missing two weeks ago after going on a business trip to Shenzhen, a mainland city just across the border.

"At present, locally engaged staff will not undertake official business travel outside of Hong Kong," the Canadian Consulate said in a statement.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China respects Canada's decision, but countered it with a Confucius quote: "A gentleman is open and poised; a petty man is unhappy and worried."

Geng elaborated that those who are "above board" will have their rights guaranteed in China, while people with "an ulterior motive to engage in illegal activities" may have to be "extremely cautious."

The U.K.'s Foreign and Commonwealth Office said it is urgently seeking further information about Cheng, who has worked for the consulate since December 2017 as an international trade and investment officer for the Scottish government.

"Neither we nor Simon's family have been able to speak to him since detention," the office said. "That is our priority and we continue to raise Simon's case repeatedly in China, Hong Kong and London and have sought to make contact with Simon himself."

Geng said that Cheng's case is a police matter and not a diplomatic issue.

China said this week that Cheng had been placed in administrative detention for 15 days for violating public order regulations. The Global Times, a Communist Party-owned tabloid newspaper, reported that Chen had been detained for soliciting prostitutes.

China often uses public order charges against political targets and has sometimes used the charge of soliciting prostitution. Ou Shaokun, an anti-corruption activist, alleged in 2015 that he was framed by authorities in southern Hunan province who said they found him in a hotel room with a prostitute.

The accountants march drew a few thousand participants who gathered in a city square before heading to government headquarters. They were the latest profession to back the movement publicly following rallies by lawyers, teachers and medical workers.

One participant, Sarah Wong, said accountants are usually quiet because they are focused on getting the numbers right, but they cannot remain silent anymore.

N. Korea test-fires missiles again after joint drills end

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired two suspected short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast on Saturday in the seventh weapons launch in a month, South Korea's military said, a day after it vowed to remain America's biggest threat in protest of U.S.-led sanctions on the country.

The North had been expected to halt weapons tests because the 10-day U.S.-South Korean drills, which it views as an invasion rehearsal, ended earlier this week.

President Donald Trump downplayed the latest launch.

"Kim Jong Un has been, you know, pretty straight with me. ... He likes testing missiles but we never restricted short-range missiles. We'll see what happens," Trump told reporters outside the White House late Friday night.

Saturday's launches were made from northeastern South Hamgyong province, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. They flew about 380 kilometers (236 miles) at the maximum altitude of 97 kilometers (60 miles), the military said.

The Japanese government said the suspected missiles caused no damage and did not land in its territorial waters.

South Korea's National Security Council expressed strong concern about the launches and urged North Korea to stop acts that raise military tensions. Council members said South Korea will launch diplomatic efforts to make North Korea return to nuclear talks with the United States, according to the president's office.

North Korea's foreign minister said Friday his country will try to remain "America's biggest threat" if the United States continues to confront it with sanctions. Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho also called U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo a "poisonous plant of American diplomacy" and vowed to "shutter the absurd dream" that sanctions will force a change in Pyongyang.

Ri's blistering rhetoric and the missile launches may dim the prospect for an early resumption of nuclear negotiations between the countries. The top U.S. envoy on North Korea, Stephen Biegun, said Wednesday that Washington was ready to restart the talks.

North Korea's anger over the U.S.-South Korean military drills had focused on South Korea, not the United States. Starting in late July, North Korea has tested a slew of weapons, mostly short-range missiles and rockets. Some of the weapons revealed developments of a new rocket artillery system and two different short-range mobile ballistic missiles that experts say would expand its ability to strike targets throughout South Korea.

Indian authorities bar opposition from visiting Kashmir

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's government on Saturday barred several opposition leaders from visiting Indian-administered Kashmir to assess the situation created by a massive security crackdown in the region that started early this month.

Authorities sent the opposition leaders back to New Delhi after they waited for several hours at the airport in Srinagar, the main city in the region, said Vineet Punia, an official with the opposition Congress party. He said the opposition leaders had returned to New Delhi.

On the Pakistani side of Kashmir, police stopped hundreds of journalists from symbolically trying to cross the highly militarized border into Indian-controlled Kashmir.

The Indian opposition leaders, representing nine political parties, flew to Srinagar from New Delhi nearly three weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government revoked Muslim-majority Kashmir's decades-old special status guaranteed under India's constitution. The government followed the move with an intense crackdown including a media blackout and backed by thousands of troops.

The opposition leaders included Rahul Gandhi of the Congress party, Sitaram Yechury of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Sharad Yadav of Janata Dal (United) and Majeed Memon of the National Conference.

Authorities on Friday had advised them against visiting the region, citing a sensitive law and order situation. But there was no official comment on Saturday on disallowing the opposition leaders from visiting Srinagar and other parts of the region.

"We are not going to disturb peace there," Majeed Memon of the Nationalist Congress Party told reporters in New Delhi before boarding the flight to Srinagar.

Ghulam Nabi Azad, a Congress party leader, said part of the reason for the visit was to look into the government's claims that normalcy is returning to the region. "We are going to assess the situation there and find out the ground reality," he said.

The changes in Indian-controlled Kashmir's status allow anyone to buy land in the territory, which some Kashmiris fear could mean an influx of Hindus who would change the region's culture and demographics.

Indian authorities are gradually easing restrictions, allowing some businesses to reopen in Srinagar and other places. Landline phone service has been restored in some areas. Officials also say they have opened grade schools, but both student and teacher attendance has been sparse.

Also Saturday, Pakistani police prevented hundreds of journalists from crossing into Indian-controlled Kashmir.

World

Brazilian troops begin deploying to fight Amazon fires

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Backed by military aircraft, Brazilian troops on Saturday were deploying in the Amazon to fight fires that have swept the region and prompted anti-government protests as well as an international outcry.

President Jair Bolsonaro also tried to temper global concern, saying that previously deforested areas had burned and that intact rainforest was spared. Even so, the fires were likely to be urgently discussed at a summit of the Group of Seven leaders in France this weekend.

Some 44,000 troops will be available for "unprecedented" operations to put out the fires, and forces are heading to six Brazilian states that asked for federal help, Defense Minister Fernando Azevedo said. The states are Roraima, Rondonia, Tocantins, Para, Acre and Mato Grosso.

The military's first mission will be carried out by 700 troops around Porto Velho, capital of Rondonia, Azevedo said. The military will use two C-130 Hercules aircraft capable of dumping up to 12,000 liters (3,170 gallons) of water on fires, he said.

An Associated Press journalist flying over the Porto Velho region Saturday morning reported hazy conditions and low visibility. On Friday, the reporter saw many already deforested areas that were burned, apparently by people clearing farmland, as well as a large column of smoke billowing from one fire.

The municipality of Nova Santa Helena in Brazil's Mato Grosso state was also hard-hit. Trucks were seen driving along a highway Friday as fires blazed and embers smoldered in adjacent fields.

The Brazilian military operations came after widespread criticism of Bolsonaro's handling of the crisis. On Friday, the president authorized the armed forces to put out fires, saying he is committed to protecting the Amazon region.

Azevedo, the defense minister, noted U.S. President Donald Trump's offer in a tweet to help Brazil fight the fires, and said there had been no further contact on the matter.

Despite international concern, Bolsonaro told reporters on Saturday that the situation was returning to normal. He said he was "speaking to everyone" about the problem, including Trump, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and several Latin American leaders.

Bolsonaro had described rainforest protections as an obstacle to Brazil's economic development, sparring with critics who say the Amazon absorbs vast amounts of greenhouse gasses and is crucial for efforts to contain climate change.

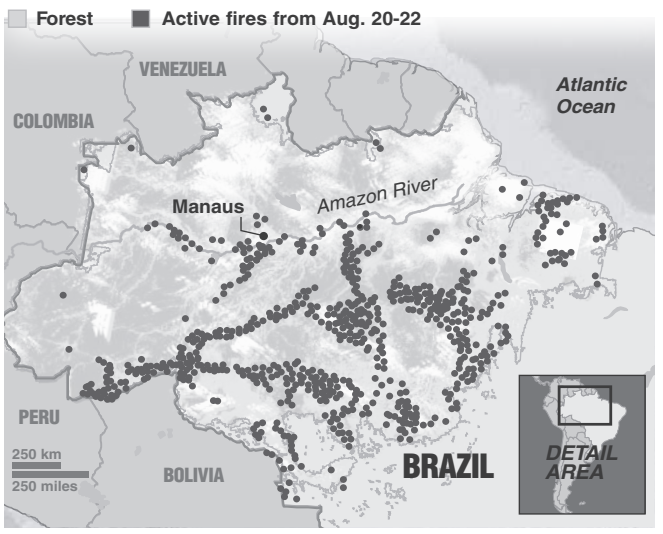
The Amazon fires have become a global issue, escalating tensions between Brazil and European countries who believe Bolsonaro has neglected commitments to protect biodiversity. Protesters gathered outside Brazilian diplomatic missions in European and Latin American cities Friday, and demonstrators also marched in Brazil.

AP

In this photo released by Brazil Ministry of Defense, a C-130 Hercules aircraft dumps water to fight fires raging in Brazil's Amazon, Saturday, Aug, 24, 2019.

The burning Amazon

More than 2,500 active fires are ravaging the Amazon rainforest in Brazil, the most intense blazes for almost a decade.



Source: AP, BBC, Brazil National Institute for Space Research
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Strikes on Iran-backed militias threaten to destabilize Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—An Israeli airstrike on an Iranian weapons depot in Iraq, confirmed by U.S. officials, is threatening to destabilize security in the volatile country that has struggled to remain neutral in the conflict between Washington and Tehran.

It would be the first known Israeli airstrike in Iraq since 1981, when Israeli warplanes destroyed a nuclear reactor being built by Saddam Hussein, and significantly expands Israel's campaign against Iranian military involvement in the region.

The July 19 attack targeted a base belonging to Iranian-backed paramilitary forces in Amirli in the northern Salaheddin province, and killed two Iranians. The attack was followed by at least two other mysterious explosions at munitions depot near Baghdad belonging to the militias.

No one has claimed responsibility for any of the attacks, which have set back security and stability in the country just as it appeared to be on the path to recovery following a devastating fight against the Islamic State group, and decades of war and conflict before that.

Earlier this week, the deputy head of the Iraqi Shiite militias, known collectively as the Popular Mobilization Forces, openly accused Israeli drones of carrying out the attacks but ultimately blamed Washington for allowing it to happen and threatened strong retaliation for any future attack.

Iraq's government, by contrast, has said it is investigating the attacks and has yet to determine who was behind them, warning against attempts to drag Iraq into any confrontation.

Security analyst Motaz Mohieh said Iraq's weak government will not be able to announce the results of its investigation "because it will constitute an embarrassment" for it.

"These strikes will continue to target the factions associated with Iran that cause a threat to Israel and the U.S. presence," he predicted.

The fallout could directly affect the future of thousands of American troops in Iraq, providing ammunition and pretext for hard-line factions who want them to leave.

Significantly, a leading Shiite Muslim cleric followed by some Iraqi militant factions issued a public religious edict, or fatwa, on Friday that forbids the presence of U.S. troops in Iraq following the strikes.

In his fatwa, Iran-based Grand Ayatollah Kazim al-Haeri also urged Iraq's armed forces to "resist and confront the (U.S.) enemy," a call that is likely to inflame tensions in Iraq.

Former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki also weighed in, warning of a "strong response" if it is proven that Israel was behind the recent airstrikes in Iraq.

Putin orders Russia to respond after US missile test

MOSCOW (AP)—President Vladimir Putin ordered the Russian military on Friday to work out a quid pro quo response after the test of a new U.S. missile banned under a now-defunct arms treaty.

In Sunday's test, a modified ground-launched version of a U.S. Navy Tomahawk cruise missile accurately struck its target more than 500 kilometers (310 miles) away. The test came after Moscow and Washington withdrew from the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

Speaking at a meeting of his Security Council, Putin charged that the U.S. waged a "propaganda campaign" alleging Russian breaches of the pact to "untie its hands to deploy the previously banned missiles in different parts of the world."

He ordered the Defense Ministry and other agencies to "take comprehensive measures to prepare a symmetrical answer."

The U.S. said it withdrew from the treaty because of Russian violations, a claim that Moscow has denied.

In an interview this week with Fox News, Defense Secretary Mark Esper asserted that the Russian cruise missiles Washington has long claimed were a violation of the now-defunct Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces, or INF, treaty, might be armed with nuclear warheads.

"Right now Russia has possibly nuclear-tipped cruise - INF-range cruise missiles facing toward Europe, and that, that's not a good thing," Esper said.

The Russian leader noted that Sunday's test was performed from a launcher similar to those deployed at a U.S. missile defense site in Romania. He argued that the Romanian facility and a prospective similar site in Poland could also be loaded with missiles intended to hit ground targets instead of interceptors.

Putin has previously pledged that Russia wouldn't deploy the missiles previously banned by the INF Treaty to any area before the U.S. does that first, but he noted Friday that the use of the universal launcher means that a covert deployment is possible.

"How would we know what they will deploy in Romania and Poland—missile defense systems or strike missile systems with a significant range?" Putin said.

A Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Col. Robert Carver, disputed Putin's assertion that the land-based U.S. missile defense system in Romania could be used to launch ground-attack missiles. He said the U.S. launch system in Romania, known as Aegis Ashore, "does not have the capability to fire offensive weapons of any kind," including a cruise missile like the Tomahawk variant used in the Aug. 18 U.S. test.

"It can only launch the SM-3 interceptor, which does not carry an explosive warhead," Carver said, adding that it would take "industrial-level construction to reconfigure it to fire offensive weapons. That reconfiguration would entail major equipment installation and software changes."

Focus

Economic storm clouds hovering over Trump and global leaders

By ZEKE MILLER and DARLENE SUPERVILLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIARRITZ, France (AP)—Under the threatening clouds of a global economic slowdown, President Donald Trump is confronting the consequences of his preference to go it alone, with low expectations that the leaders of the richest democracies can make substantive progress on an array of issues at their summit in France.

The meeting of the Group of Seven nations—Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the U.S.—in the beach resort town of Biarritz comes at one of the most unpredictable moments in Trump's presidency, when his public comments and decision-making increasingly have seemed erratic and acerbic of late.

Trump, who arrived Saturday, and his counterparts are facing mounting anxiety over the state of the world economy and new tension on trade, Iran and Russia . Trump, growing more isolated in Washington, might find a tepid reception at the summit as calls increase for cooperation and a collective response to address the financial downturn. White House aides claimed he engineered a late change to the summit agenda, requesting a working session on economic issues.

The economic warning signs, along with Chinese's aggressive use of tariffs on U.S. goods, are raising the pressure on Trump and his reelection effort. He intends to push allies at the summit to act to promote growth.

But Trump's credibility as a cheerleader for multilateralism is in doubt, given that he has spent the first 2½ years in office promoting an "America First" foreign policy that relying on protectionist measures. Traditional American allies have come to expect the unexpected from this White House; increasingly they are looking elsewhere for leadership.

AP
U.S President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron greet each other at the G-7 summit before a dinner at the Lighthouse of Biarritz, France, Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019.

Only hours before his arrival in Biarritz, Trump had threatened anew to place tariffs on French wine imports to the U.S. in a spat over France's digital services tax; the European Union promised to retaliate. That was the backdrop for a late addition to his summit schedule—a two-hour lunch with French President Emmanuel Macron outside the opulent Hotel du Palais.

The summit host said the two men were discussing "a lot of crisis" around the world, including Libya, Iran and Russia, as well as trade policy and climate change. But he also echoed Trump's calls for Europe to do more to address the global slowdown, including by cutting taxes. "When I look at Europe, especially, we need some new tools to relaunch our economy," Macron said.

Trump insisted that despite tensions, he and Macron "actually have a lot in common" and a "special relationship." In a later tweet, he said: "Big weekend with other world leaders!

Macron outlined details of a French plan to ease tensions with Iran by allowing Iran to export oil for a limited amount of time, said a French diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity in accordance with the presidency's customary practices. In exchange, Iran would need to fully put in place the 2015 nuclear deal, reduce tensions in the Persian Gulf and open talks. The plan was met with a skeptical reception by Trump, and the White House paid only a cursory mention of the Gulf in its official readout of the lunch meeting.

Trade was clearly on Trump's mind when he left for France. Trump declared that U.S. businesses with dealings in China are "hereby ordered" to begin moving home. It was a threat to use the emergency authority granted by a powerful, but obscure federal law intended to target rogue governments, terrorists and drug traffickers, and giving presidents wide berth in regulating international commerce during times of declared national emergencies.

It was not immediately clear how Trump could use the act to force American businesses to move their manufacturing out of China and to the U.S, and Trump's threat appeared premature—as he has not declared an emergency with respect to China.

In recent days, Trump has sent mixed signals on a number of policy fronts. At one point, he moved to simmer the trade conflict with China in order to ease the impact on American consumers during the holiday shopping season. At another, he flip-flopped on the need for tax cuts to stimulate an economy that Trump publicly insists is rocketing.

Feeding Trump's anxiety, aides say, is his realization that the economy—the one sturdy pillar undergirding his bid for a second term—is undeniably wobbly.

Trump planned to press leaders about what can be done to spur growth in the U.S. and abroad, as well as to open European, Japanese and Canadian markets to American manufacturers and producers. Trump has imposed or threatened to impose tariffs on all three markets in his pursuit of free, fair and reciprocal trade.

The annual G-7 summit has historically been used to highlight common ground among the world's leading democracies. But in a bid to work around Trump's impulsiveness, Macron has eschewed plans for a formal joint statement from this gathering.

Last year's summit, hosted by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, ended in acrimony when Trump felt he had been slighted by Trudeau after the president left the meeting.

Trump tweeted insults at Trudeau from aboard Air Force One as he flew to a summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un. Trump withdrew his signature from the statement of principles that all seven nations had agreed to.

Addressing the global slowdown isn't the only pressing challenge that Trump has discovered requires joint action.

For more than a year, his administration has struggled with persuading European leaders to repatriate captured fighters from the Islamic State group. So far his entreaties have fallen on deaf ears.

Many of the summit proceedings will take place behind closed doors, in intimate settings designed for the leaders to develop personal relationships with one another. On Saturday night they dined at the Biarritz lighthouse, with commanding views of the Bay of Biscay.

Trump, White House aides said, was looking forward to a Sunday morning meeting with new British Prime Minister Boris Johnson , the brash pro-Brexit leader whose election he'd backed. The two spoke by phone on Friday, and Johnson said Saturday he would use the meeting to push Trump to de-escalate the American trade war with China.

Trump has scheduled individual meetings with several of his counterparts, including Macron, Trudeau, Merkel, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Other topics on the agenda will be the clashes between police and pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong; Iran's renewed nuclear enrichment and interference with shipping in the Strait of Hormuz; and the Islamic State prisoners currently imprisoned by American-backed Kurdish forces in Syria.

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In loving memory of

†Gloria Monzon-Sine

April 8, 1944 - August 13, 2019

On Monday, August 13, 2019, Gloria Monzon Sine, sister, cousin, auntie, great aunt passed away suddenly at the age of 75. Gloria was married to the late Col. Leonard Sine who died on Oct. 3, 2010. Gloria will be forever remembered by her sisters Digna, Techie, Siony and brothers Francisco & Nicandro, and brothers- in-law Dave Lorange, Tony Tujan & Cesar Rodriguez and sister in-law Amy Canalita, nephews BJ, Christopher/Jessy, Caesar Anthony/Tomomi, Karlo/Domini, nieces Agnes/Gary, Tessa, Lisa, Kathleen/Johnell, Nicole/Dustin, cousins, sister Carol Monzon and Joey Monzon, aunt Luz Murallon. Gloria will also be forever remembered with love by her numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family and dear friends.

Cremation by Borja Funeral Homes on August 24, 2019.

We express our gratitude for all masses and prayers offered for the repose of her soul.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in memory of †Gloria Monzon-Sine on August 28, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Kristo Rai Parish in Garapan. Bishop Ryan Jimenez will officiate the mass with con-celebrants Fr. Charlie Borja, Fr. Albert Ellazar, Fr. Harold Funa & Fr. Jesse Reyes.

We express our gratitude for the love and loving prayer and support extended to
†Gloria Monzon-Sine & Family.

THE MONZON FAMILY

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Do abdominal sweatbands help you lose weight?

It's kind of like having diarrhea, expert says

By RASHA ALI
TNS

Abdominal sweatbands appear to be the perfect accessory for your workouts—a simple wrap around your waist and you end up sweating like crazy. So that must mean your body's working harder and you're losing weight, right? Think again.

Abdominal sweatbands—which cost around $20 and can be found at Target, Walmart and Vitamin Shoppe—are usually made from a Neoprene material and are intended to make your midsection sweat more, presumably causing wearers to lose inches off their stomachs.

But Harley Pasternak, a celebrity trainer and author of "The Body Reset Diet," describes the sweatbands as "useless" and potentially hazardous.

"It can actually be dangerous because your own abdominal muscles are less activated," he says. "When you have an external support, you don't strengthen your own abdominal muscles as much when you're using a mechanical aid."

The trainer adds that just because you're sweating doesn't mean you're losing any weight. He likened it to someone sitting in a sauna, watching football and eating tortilla chips, saying that although that person is sweating, they're not losing any body fat.

"Body fat is burned systemically, not locally," Pasternak says. "Your system burns body fat by activating its metabolism, and your metabolism is affected by physical activity (and) genetics among other things. It would be like if I were to wrap plastic around my left arm, it wouldn't get any skinnier than my right arm."

Dr. Sophia Yen, co-founder of Pandia Health and professor at Stanford Univeristy with a clinical focus on obesity, agrees that abdominal sweatbands don't really work—at least not long term.

"I think it would work temporarily, but it wouldn't work long term," Yen says. "Anytime anything's about sweat, it's temporary."

She adds that it's good if you need to fit in a dress for a special occasion later on in the evening or the next day, but the weight will be back. It's kind of like having diarrhea, she explains.

"All of us, when we have diarrhea, we lose five to 10 pounds in a day," she says.

Jasmine Jones, a Herbalife health coach, says that the most important thing when it comes to weight loss is your diet and exercise—the sweatband is just an added bonus.

"I would say the band is extra to the work someone is putting in," she says. "Someone can be using that band and eating horrible and not get results."

If you're looking to lose weight and keep it off, the key is your diet and nutrition among other things. Both Jones and Yen say that diet is far more significant when it comes to weight loss than exercise. Yen adds that she has only had one patient lose weight from just exercising and "he did three hours of cardio Monday through Friday and five hours on the weekend."

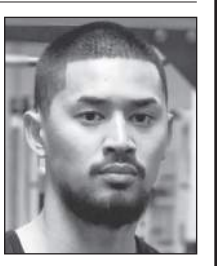
Pasternak says there are five key points when it comes to weight loss: be active throughout your day, get a good night's sleep, unplug from technology, eat well (each meal should have protein, fiber and veggies) and get at least five minutes of resistance training in a day. If you were looking to lose stomach fat with the aid of the sweatband, you can't target fat loss, with or without wrapping your midsection.

"There is no such thing as local or targeted fat loss, you can not determine where your body will lose fat first," Pasternak says.

Q & A: Calorie deficit and what it's all about

By DRE DELOS SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune *and TAGA* Sports*. Readers may send him questions at www.dredelossantos.com; he cannot make personal replies.*



One day my client came in a few minutes late. She walked in smelling like a brewery. Now waking up hungover makes for a good laugh among friends but you're not doing yourself any favors when you're distinctly overweight and out of shape.

It was clear she was in no condition to be receiving instructions let alone workout. Coupled with the fact she was putting in very little effort to modify her inclinations since the first day we shook on it, I was irate. Not even halfway through the session, I told her to go home. "We're done. Get out of here." Not one of my proudest moments as a trainer.

Obviously, the benefits of strength training extend far beyond looking good. But if that is the principal goal, understand the actual work is supposed to be hard. Think about it. You've been out of shape for a number of years, so a degree of restriction is unavoidable. It's clearly going to take more than a month to see significant changes.

NUTRITION MADE EASY

- Start with 1-2 palm-sized servings of protein.
- Center your carbohydrates mainly around your workout.
- Manage portions according to your level of activity.
- Establish consistency with similar foods.
- Limit access to trigger foods.

Q: I recently altered my diet by increasing my protein intake, and cutting back on carbohydrates. Somehow, I've gained weight. Help me.

A: Restricting carbohydrates—rice, breads, pasta, etc.—is a well-intentioned strategy. People who have a higher body fat percentage will respond favorably particularly during the initial stages of a diet. Effectively, it mitigates overeating, which is conducive for fat loss. But to say it's the only viable option to facilitate it is nonsensical.

You don't have to do anything extraordinary to see measurable improvements. The name of the game has always been maintaining a calorie deficit. In other words, eat a little bit less. It's the most important component because any sort of manipulation or dietary hack is rendered useless if you're habitually overeating. At the very basic level you should have an idea of exactly how much you're eating.

What works can be mind-numbing. But it works.

Q: I already know I have to exercise more. It's just so hard to stay motivated. How do I stay focused and on track?

A: Struggling with motivation? This sort of thing happens and that's perfectly normal. Start with the lowest hanging fruit. What's the easiest thing you can do that isn't a huge ordeal? Most people have a tendency to overcomplicate the details and perpetuate the idea they have to go 0-100mph.

The assumption that you can't thrive without intensive effort is part of the reason a lot of folks have a hard time staying consistent. Not to come off as a pompous wiseass, but that's overkill.

As long as you're applying effort, there's nothing wrong working below your threshold. It also helps to have a reliable trainer partner or a workout buddy. make personal replies.

Life & Style

Disney teases 'Star Wars,' 'Frozen 2,' more at convention

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—At the Walt Disney Company's biannual D23 convention, a faint image of the "Star Wars" character Emperor Palpatine in the background of a new poster can cause as much of a stir as actual appearances from movie stars such as Angelina Jolie and Dwayne Johnson. But that's no surprise for the most powerful studio in the world, whose characters are stars as big, if not bigger, than the A-listers playing them—at least for the people attending the company's fan convention.

Even the word "fan" is too impersonal for this kind of loyalty. As Walt Disney Studios co-chairman Alan Horn told the audience Saturday: "You're not just fans, you're family."

Right across the street from Disneyland, nearly 7,000 people packed a giant convention hall in Anaheim on Saturday hoping to get a look at or at least more information about Disney properties coming to theaters in the next few years, including "Star Wars: Episode IX—The Rise of Skywalker," ″Frozen 2," ″Black Panther 2," ″Black Widow," ″Cruella," ″Soul" and more, with a parade of stars such as Jolie, Johnson, Chris Pratt, Tom Holland, Jamie Foxx, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Daisy Ridley all gracing the stage to help drum up excitement for all that's to come. Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel, Josh Gad and Jonathan Groff even serenaded the audience with a performance of a new song from "Frozen 2" as fake fall leaves fell down on the audience like confetti to close out the presentation.

People line up in front of the Anaheim Convention Center during the 2019 D23 Expo on Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019, in Anaheim, Calif. AP

Disney kicked things off with "Star Wars," revealing a new poster, which every audience member got a copy of, and glimpses of some new footage from "Star Wars: Episode IX—The Rise of Skywalker." The film, which hits theaters Dec. 20, ends the Skywalker saga that began over 40 years ago.

Anthony Daniels, who has played the droid C-3PO since the beginning seemed to get a bit choked up on stage.

"It's kind of hard for me to understand that the story is ending, but what an ending," Daniels said. "You'll love it."

Spider-Man Tom Holland tells fans: 'I love you 3000'

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Tom Holland has made an appearance at a Disney fan convention amid the news that Spider-Man will no longer be part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Earlier this week, it was reported that the cross-studio partnership between Disney and Sony, which allowed Holland's Spider-Man to appear in Marvel films, was ending. Marvel also helped produce the stand-alone Spider-Man films such as this summer's "Far From Home."

Holland was not at D23 Saturday on behalf of Marvel however, but Pixar. He's voicing a role in the upcoming animated film "Onward."

The nearly 7,000 people in the audience screamed wildly for Holland. He did not address Spider-Man specifically but told the audience that it's been a crazy week and cryptically quoting Tony Stark in "Avengers: Endgame," added: "I love you 3000."

■■■

Jamie Foxx and Tina Fey are lending their voices to the new Pixar film "Soul."

Director Pete Docter announced the cast for the upcoming jazz-themed film Saturday at Disney's D23 fan convention in Anaheim that also includes Questlove, Daveed Diggs and Phylicia Rashad.

Docter, in his first appearance on stage as the chief creative officer of the shop behind "Toy Story," says that "Soul" imagines that every human attends a pre-birth seminar where they're given quirks, interests and passions.

Foxx voices the lead character Joe, who is a jazz musician and middle school band teacher.

Jon Batiste is contributing original songs for the film and Oscar-winners Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross are doing the score.

"Soul" hits theaters in June 2020.

■■■

Writer and director Ryan Coogler says that "Black Panther 2" will hit theaters on May 6, 2022. Coogler made an appearance Saturday at the Walt Disney Co.'s D23 fan convention in Anaheim.

Coogler said he wasn't ready to reveal a title or a plot yet for the highly anticipated sequel to "Black Panther," which became a cultural phenomenon and grossed over $1.3 billion at the worldwide box office.

Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige also announced that Kit Harington is joining the cast of "The Eternals," which will reunite him with his "Game of Thrones" co-star Richard Madden. Harington is playing a non-Eternal named Dane. "Crazy Rich Asians" star Gemma Chan has also joined the cast of the Marvel project which includes Angelina Jolie.

■■■

Lucasfilm President Kathleen Kennedy says that "Star Wars: Episode IX—The Rise of Skywalker" is going to be an incredibly good time.

Nearly 7,000 people got a look Saturday at a new poster and some new footage from the film at the Walt Disney Co.'s biannual D23 fan convention in Anaheim.

The film which opens in theaters nationwide Dec. 20 closes out the over 40-year-old Skywalker saga. Kennedy was joined on the convention stage by writer-director J.J. Abrams and stars including Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, Billy Dee Williams and Anthony Daniels.

R2-D2 evoked the most applause from the excited audience.

Abrams said that the late Carrie Fisher is also part of "Episode IX" thanks to unused footage from "Episode VII."

Britain's Prince Andrew denies knowledge of Epstein's crimes

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Prince Andrew responded to intense media scrutiny of his links to Jeffrey Epstein by issuing a statement Saturday denying any knowledge of criminal behavior by his one-time friend who killed himself in a New York jail while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges.

"At no stage during the limited time I spent with him did I see, witness or suspect any behaviour of the sort that subsequently led to his arrest and conviction," Andrew said in the written statement, referring to Epstein's 2008 conviction after pleading guilty to prostitution-related state charges.

Andrew

Epstein served 13 months behind bars. Andrew again said it was a "mistake" to visit Epstein after his release in 2010.

Queen Elizabeth's son also expressed "tremendous sympathy" for Epstein's victims.

Epstein, 66, killed himself Aug. 11 while awaiting trial on charges of sex trafficking and conspiracy.

Saying he wanted to clarify their "association," Andrew said, "I met Mr. Epstein in 1999. During the time I knew him, I saw him infrequently and probably no more than only once or twice a year. I have stayed in a number of his residences."

Saturday's statement was not the first time Andrew has commented on Epstein.

Earlier this month, Andrew rejected suggestions he may have been involved in Epstein's crimes. That statement came after the Mail on Sunday newspaper obtained a Dec. 6, 2010, video showing Andrew inside Epstein's New York home waving goodbye to a young woman. The video was recorded after Epstein's 2008 conviction.

Obi-Wan, Lizzie McGuire join new Disney Plus platform

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Ewan McGregor is reprising his "Star Wars" role as Obi-Wan Kenobi in a new series, one of the many splashy projects that Disney is banking on to make its new streaming platform competitive.

The as-yet untitled Disney Plus show drew big cheers when it was announced Friday at the D23 Expo fan event, as did a "Lizzie McGuire" reboot with original star Hilary Duff playing a grown-up version of the title character.

The audience of about 6,000 at a convention center adjacent to Disneyland also voiced enthusiasm for another "Star Wars"-related series, "The Mandalorian," which its producers said is set in an unexplored time for the space saga and features new characters.

Disney Plus had a receptive crowd, with expo attendees lining up to buy discounted subscriptions before the showcase. But it laid out a two-hour banquet of show trailers and stars to further whet fans' appetite, starting with a performance by cast members of the new "High School Musical" series and appearances by McGregor, Duff, Kristen Bell, Anna Kendrick and others.

"It's been four years of saying, 'I don't know'" when he was asked about the long-discussed Obi-Wan project, McGregor said. "Now I can say, 'Yes, we're going to do it.'"

Among the movies set for the streaming service launching Nov. 12: the holiday comedy "Noelle," starring Kendrick, Bill Hader and Billy Eichner, and a live-action remake of 1955's animated film "Lady and the Tramp," with Tessa Thompson and Justin Theroux voicing the canine couple. Yvette Nicole Brown, who hosted the Disney Plus showcase, also stars.

Cecilia Bartoli talks, again, of US return

SALZBURG, Austria (AP)—There was a time a generation ago when Cecilia Bartoli's many U.S. fans could count on seeing her regularly in opera or in concert.

The Italian mezzo-soprano noted for her warm sound, dramatic intensity and dazzling coloratura agility had shot to fame in the early 1990s while still in her 20s on the strength of best-selling recordings of Rossini and Mozart. Her every appearance just about guaranteed a sellout.

But that was then. She last sang at the Metropolitan Opera in 1998, hasn't been seen at Carnegie Hall since 2009, canceled a West Coast concert tour in 2015 and has stayed mostly in Europe, giving rise only to occasional rumors of an imminent return.

"You're right, it's time, it's time," Bartoli said in an interview earlier this month in Salzburg, where she was appearing in the title role of Handel's "Alcina."

"I have to come back before I go to pension." she added with her infectious laugh, making clear that at age 53 and still in prime vocal form that she has no intention of retiring anytime soon.

Bartoli said she has had "discussions" with both the Met and Carnegie Hall. "It would be nice to come for a longer period than just a concert and then leave," she said wistfully. "So we'll see."

As for the Met, general manager Peter Gelb said the company "has invited Ms. Bartoli back many times, but so far to no avail. We would be very happy were she to return."

Peppa Pig to get new owner: GI Joe maker Hasbro

NEW YORK (AP)—Hasbro is going whole hog on Peppa Pig.

The maker of Monopoly and GI Joe will pay about $4 billion to buy Entertainment One Ltd., a British entertainment company that produces "Peppa Pig," "PJ Masks" and other animated shows for preschoolers.

"Peppa Pig," which stars a pink cartoon pig with a British accent, airs worldwide and is translated into over 40 languages.

Shares in Entertainment One jumped 30% in London on Friday.

Hasbro Inc., based in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, says the deal will help it turn more of its toy brands into shows or movies. Many of its brands, including My Little Pony and Transformers, already appear in TV shows and movies.

The deal is expected to close before the end of the year.

Disney Legends honor prompts Robert Downey Jr. pot story

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Robert Downey Jr. says he had a wild Disneyland ride in his younger days.

The "Iron Man" and "Avengers: Endgame" star, among those honored Friday as Disney Legends, said his first visit to the Southern California resort included a brief detention for "smoking pot in a gondola."

"I was brought to a surprisingly friendly processing center, given a stern warning and returned to, if memory serves, one very disappointed group chaperone," Downey said.

He turned serious when he spoke about the Marvel movies.

"I get to remain a fan of the first inclusive and evolving cinematic universe ever so far," said Downey, whose character meets a dark fate in "Avengers: Endgame."

Disney CEO Robert Iger presented the Legends trophy to the actor at the D23 Expo Disney fan event. The company said it honors those who have made remarkable contributions to the Disney legacy.

Singer Christina Aguilera, actress Ming-Na Wen, journalists Diane Sawyer and Robin Roberts and directors Jon Favreau and Kenny Ortega were among others receiving trophies.

AP

Actor Robert Downey Jr. poses during his handprint ceremony at the Disney Legends press line during the 2019 D23 Expo, Friday, Aug. 23, 2019, in Anaheim, Calif.

Aguilera, who performed "Reflection" from the Disney movie "Mulan," called it "way cooler than a Grammy."

Wen thanked her mother for giving her the courage to live "this American dream."

The actress voiced the role of Mulan and is joining the cast of the upcoming Disney Plus streaming service's "The Mandalorian."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Author Ray Bradbury honored with Illinois hometown statue

WAUKEGAN, Ill. (AP)—The Chicago-area hometown of the late famed science fiction writer Ray Bradbury marked his birthday with dedication of a statue in his honor. The 12-foot-tall (3.7-meter-tall) stainless steel statue outside the Waukegan Public Library depicts Bradbury astride a rocket ship while holding a book. The (Lake County) News-Sun reports artist Zachary Oxman told those at Thursday's ceremony that the statue tells the story of a man "beaming with unbridled imagination, curiosity and surprise," Bradbury was born in Waukegan in 1920 and often spoke of the hours he spent at the city's library before his family moved to Los Angeles when he was a teenager. He died in 2012. He wrote hundreds of works, including "Fahrenheit 451" and "The Martian Chronicles." The $125,000 project was financed primarily through donations.

Dave Chappelle set to host benefit concert for Ohio shooting

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Comedian Dave Chappelle plans to host a special block party and benefit concert in Ohio for those affected by the recent mass shooting. Chappelle will be among national and local entertainers planned for the main stage at the "Gem City Shine" event in Dayton on Sunday. WDTN-TV reports the City of Dayton along with the Downtown Dayton Partnership and the Chamber of Commerce will help organize the tribute. The organizers say the event will be an effort to "reclaim" the entertainment district after 24-year-old Connor Betts' 32-second rampage in front of Ned Peppers that killed nine people and left dozens injured on Aug. 4. Chappelle, a resident of nearby Yellow Springs, urges attendees to "live in the moment" by enjoying the experience live rather than recording it on their cellphones.

Spanish ex-king Juan Carlos I has successful heart surgery

MADRID (AP)—Spain's former monarch Juan Carlos I underwent heart surgery Saturday and the hospital said the operation was a success. A statement issued by Madrid's Quironsalud University Hospital said the 81-year-old king emeritus had a triple bypass procedure without any complications. The operation had been planned following a checkup the former king received in June. King Felipe VI, his only son, arrived at the hospital shortly after midday, accompanied by his mother, Sofia, the queen emeritus. Arriving at the clinic late Friday, Juan Carlos told reporters, "You'll see me on the way out." The hospital said the former king was moved to the post-surgery unit after the operation. Juan Carlos retired from public life in May. He abdicated in 2014 in favor of Felipe, ending a near 39-year reign. Revered by many Spaniards, Juan Carlos was considered a key figure in Spain's transition from dictatorship to democracy following the 1975 death of Gen. Francisco Franco.

Beyonce, Sinatra among those on Obama summer song playlist

NEW YORK (AP)—The Obama summer playlist has everyone from Drake and Beyonce to Steely Dan and Frank Sinatra. The former president calls it "some new, some old, some fast, some slow."

Barack Obama tweeted 44 songs Saturday that he and his wife, Michelle, have been listening to. They include Drake's "Too Good," Steely Dan's "Reelin' in the Years" and the Sinatra standard "I've Got You Under My Skin."

Other choices are "MOOD 4 EVA," the "Lion King" song with Beyonce and Jay-Z among other artists; and such oldies as Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl" and Dobie Gray's "Drift Away."

Last week, Barack Obama offered book recommendations, among them Colson Whitehead's "The Nickel Boys," Hilary Mantel's "Wolf Hall" and the "collected works" of Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, who died Aug. 12.

Singer Eddie Money says he has stage 4 esophageal cancer

NEW YORK (AP)—Eddie Money says he has stage 4 esophageal cancer. The singer known for such hits as "Two Tickets to Paradise" and "Take Me Home Tonight" says his fate is in "God's hands."

Money's comments appear in a video released Saturday from his AXS TV reality series "Real Money." The full episode airs Sept. 12.

In the video, Money says he discovered he had cancer after what he thought was a routine checkup. The 70-year-old whose real name is Edward Mahoney learned that the disease had spread to his liver and lymph nodes.

Money said it hit him "really, really hard."

Man is embarrassed when wife asks people their age

DEAR ABBY: My wife constantly craves compliments about her age. When we meet people, she regularly asks how old they are, which I think is rude and inappropriate. Then she asks me if I know how old they are, and I say "no" because I don't think it's any of my business. She then asks them, "How old do you think I am?" Almost always they guess low, which makes her happy.

She thinks there's something wrong with me for not being curious about someone's age. Abby, is it appropriate when meeting someone to ask how old he or she is? To me, it's like asking how much they weigh—which is also none of my business! Is my wife rude, or am I the one with the problem? I like people but don't need the intimate details of their lives.

MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS

DEAR MINDING: Many people dislike being asked their age, and to ask that question of a stranger is not appropriate. That your wife raises the subject because she seeks validation about her looks is sad. I'm guessing she will stop doing it when people answer her question honestly.

DEAR ABBY: Whenever the opportunity presents itself, I donate one of my framed oil paintings for fundraising. On one of these occasions, my friend and her husband purchased raffle tickets and won my painting. They happily took it home.

Months later, there was to be a silent auction at an event. My friend asked if I would mind if she donated that painting to it. It disturbed me that she obviously didn't care to keep my painting, but I told her that she owned it and it was hers to do with as she chose.

To this day this incident stirs up resentment because she obviously didn't wish to keep my artwork. Am I childish to harbor this disappointment?

DEJECTED ARTIST IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ARTIST: If your friend hadn't liked your painting, she wouldn't have bid for it. For whatever reason—wrong size, colors didn't fit in with her color scheme—it didn't work for her. Resentment is a disease that eats away at relationships. Let it go.

DEAR ABBY: I am 14 and have started dating a guy. "Jake" is really sweet and nice to me, but he also has some depression. I feel like if I break up with him, he will start hurting himself. I really like him, but my parents also don't know we are dating. He wants to be together forever, but I'm not sure what's best for me. For now, I want to focus on school and sports. What should I do?

TEEN IN COLORADO

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

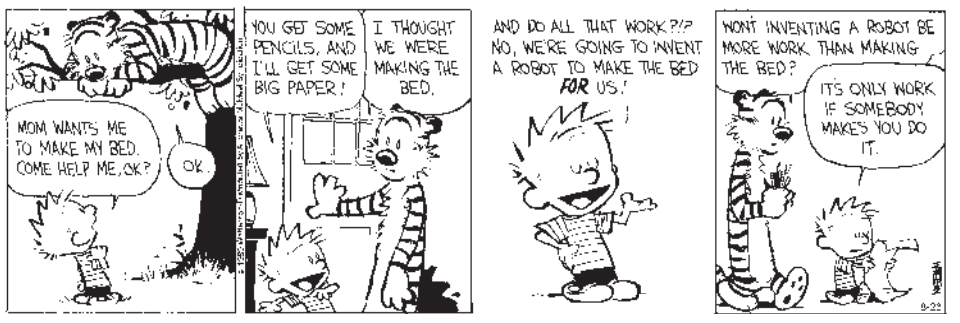
DEAR TEEN: You are an intelligent young woman. Tell Jake that your parents don't want you dating until you are older. It is no reflection on him; it is the truth. Explain that, right now, you plan to focus on school and sports and suggest that it wouldn't hurt him to do the same. If he reacts by threatening to harm himself, tell your parents or a trusted teacher so they can inform his parents and he can get the emotional support he needs, and possibly professional help.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM WANTS ME TO MAKE MY BED. COME HELP ME, OK?
OK.
YOU GET SOME PENCILS, AND I'LL GET SOME BIG PAPER!
I THOUGHT WE WERE MAKING THE BED.
AND DO ALL THAT WORK?!? NO, WE'RE GOING TO INVENT A ROBOT TO MAKE THE BED FOR US!
WON'T INVENTING A ROBOT BE MORE WORK THAN MAKING THE BED?
IT'S ONLY WORK IF SOMEBODY MAKES YOU DO IT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

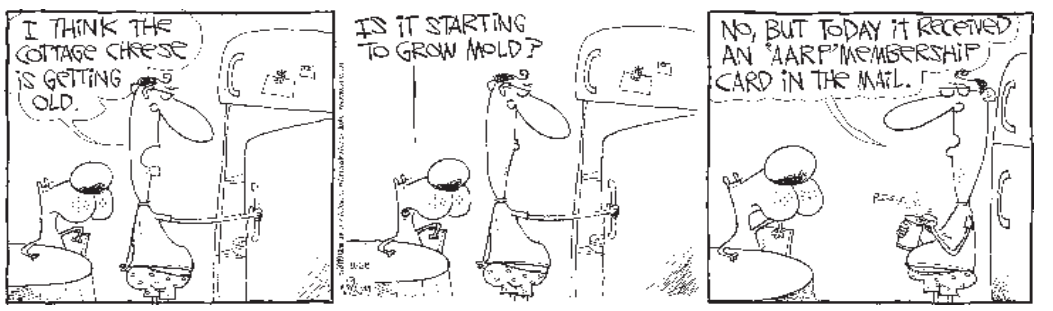
SHOULD I GET OUT OF BED THIS MORNING?
WE'RE OUT OF COFFEE, BUT WE DO HAVE A LOVELY LAVENDER HERBAL TEA
THAT WOULD BE A "NOPE"
JIM DAVIS 8-26

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I THINK THE COTTAGE CHEESE IS GETTING OLD.
IS IT STARTING TO GROW MOLD?
NO, BUT TODAY IT RECEIVED AN "AARP" MEMBERSHIP CARD IN THE MAIL.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Guy's date
4 Talk a blue streak?
9 Rent out
12 Enzyme suffix
13 "Ta-da!"
14 "Xanadu" band
15 "Hurry up!"
17 Cagers' gp.
18 Hill dweller
19 Encircled
21 Elixir
24 Draft status
25 Altar constellation
26 Drunkard
28 Garden pest
31 Erie or Placid
33 Up to
35 Rice wine
36 January, to Juan
38 Zero-star review
40 Museum-funding org.
41 Priests' garments
43 Gizmo
45 Jab with a finger
47 "CSI" find
48 Ornate vase
49 Grimaced, say
54 Mao — -tung
55 Warning sound
56 Fanatic
57 Water tester
58 Feel
59 "Certainly!"

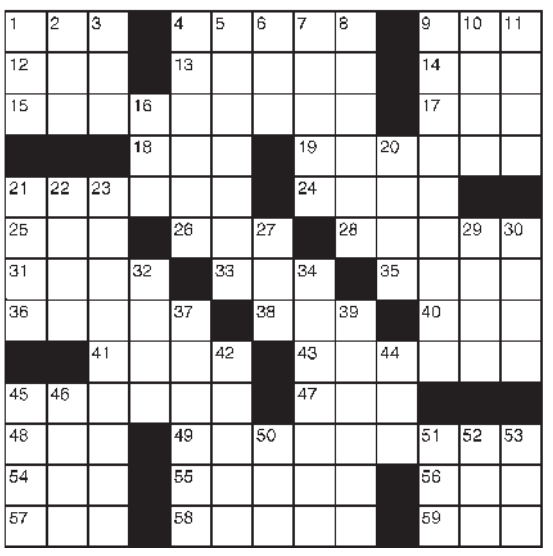
DOWN

1 Cooking fuel
2 Fireplace residue
3 Meadow
4 Shorthand pros
5 Unspecified things
6 Snaky fish
7 "All systems —!"
8 Capital of Saskatchewan
9 Help out
10 North Sea feeder
11 Frog's kin
16 Chiang — -shek
20 Agents, for short
21 Ashen
22 Algerian port
23 Run the clock down, in football
27 Bit of advice
29 Furniture brand
30 Lifeless
32 Perry's creator
34 Firetruck necessities
37 First family of 2010
39 Generic
42 Trite
44 Klutz
45 Golf stroke
46 Guesser's words
50 Quarterback Marino
51 Some
52 Prompt
53 UFO pilots

Solution time: 26 mins.

M	O	S	■	A	P	E	■	P	I	I	A	S
U	R	I	■	X	I	■	■	E	N	E	M	Y
I	O	N	■	I	C	E	L	A	N	D	E	H
T	O	G	■	S	K	■	E	S	■	■	■	■
S	P	E	C	■	L	O	T	■	S	O	S	O
■	■	■	L	I	E	■	S	A	N	D	E	R
E	B	O	O	K	■	■	■	S	A	D	A	T
G	A	N	D	E	H	■	S	K	I	■	■	■
O	R	E	S	■	U	M	A	■	L	I	M	E
■	■	■	S	I	E	V	E	■	N	O	G	■
C	O	R	I	A	N	D	E	R	■	S	O	Y
C	O	H	A	N	■	■	R	A	■	F	S	P
S	H	O	N	E	■	■	A	S	S	■	T	E	T

Last Friday's Answer 08/26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keke Palmer, 26; Macaulay Culkin, 39; Chris Pine, 39; Melissa McCarthy, 49.

Happy Birthday: Set high standards and put a practical strategy in place. Positive change can be yours if you go about it the right way. Show compassion and understanding, and you will gain support and respect in return. Reconnect with people you are sorry you lost touch with, and reinstate interests that fell by the wayside. Reclaim your dreams, hopes and wishes. Your numbers are 7, 11, 20, 24, 31, 38, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Do your own thing. Don't share personal secrets, plans or ideas with your peers, relatives or anyone who may hinder your progress. Refuse to let an emotional confrontation lead to a permanent change that you don't want. 2 stars

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A change will lift your spirits. Take a day trip or get together with someone you respect or look to for advice. Share your plans for the future with someone you love. Don't overspend or give in to anyone trying to manipulate you. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Choose your friends wisely. Get involved in ventures that are within your means and based on tangible facts and figures. Walk away from people who are excessive and situations that are explosive. Protect against insult or injury. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Channel your emotional energy into something that counts. Keeping the peace, looking for love and taking better care of your mind, body and soul will encourage better relationships with others, as well as enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Think outside the box. Look for solutions that will encourage you to recycle, repair and reuse what you already have. Change doesn't have to cost a bundle. What you save can be put toward something you long for. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Get together with people who are heading in the same direction. Share ideas, and plan your next move. Personal and physical improvements will be good for your mental, emotional and physical state of mind. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Think matters through carefully before making a move or saying something that will back you into a corner. Someone you have gotten along rather well with in the past will offer you sound advice. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Sort out your next move, put your strategy in place and take a passionate plunge into the future. Go after what you want; put to rest what is no longer part of your vision. Strive for peace, love and happiness. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Cut to the chase, say what's on your mind and keep moving forward. If someone is mendacious, know enough to walk away. Trust in what you know and what you are capable of doing. Enjoy the journey you chose. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Size up whatever project you want to pursue, and get this party started. Change begins with dreams, plans and actions. Turn on the charm, and pull in the best of the best to help you reach your goal. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Think your way through each step of any dilemma or decision you have to make. Ask questions, look for opportunities and choose to motivate those around you. Your action can and will make a difference. Follow your heart. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Keep your life simple, and avoid exaggeration, indulgence and people who want too much from you. Focus on personal health, relationships and how you can improve your life and the lives of those you care about most. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are diligent, persistent and convincing. You are engaging and charismatic.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2		9				1		7
	5			8	9		2	
4				7				9
	4		7		2			
	3	8		5		6	7	
			8		1		3	
9				1				3
	6		4	2			9	
5		3				8		1

Difficulty Level ★ 8/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	5	3	7	8	2	9	4	6
2	7	9	4	5	6	8	3	1
4	6	8	1	3	9	5	2	7
6	4	7	2	9	8	1	5	3
3	2	5	6	7	1	4	8	9
9	8	1	5	4	3	7	6	2
5	9	4	3	6	7	2	1	8
8	3	2	9	1	4	6	7	5
7	1	6	8	2	5	3	9	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ST. LOUIS WINS ITS FIRST STANLEY CUP Solution: 9 letters

B	I	N	N	I	N	G	T	O	N	C	M	B	(L)	S
L	D	A	H	C	B	O	H	O	P	A	M	E	(H)	N
A	L	L	E	N	A	O	R	A	C	A	T	R	(N)	A
I	R	B	B	A	F	R	R	E	E	S	B	U	O	F
S	E	M	A	G	E	A	A	T	I	O	D	B	S	T
B	U	A	Y	P	Y	C	H	V	U	L	O	E	S	A
A	O	R	E	K	H	O	Q	W	N	Z	L	M	R	R
R	R	O	O	E	M	D	M	O	A	P	Z	Y	A	A
B	Y	O	R	A	N	E	S	K	N	A	L	O	N	S
A	K	N	S	U	E	D	I	S	C	H	E	N	N	E
S	S	O	S	S	N	R	U	B	R	O	H	T	U	N
H	C	N	T	U	A	R	M	S	T	R	O	N	G	K
E	O	E	M	P	I	E	T	R	A	N	G	E	L	O
V	R	D	E	L	Z	O	T	T	O	S	S	U	H	S
N	E	E	T	S	C	H	W	A	R	T	Z	A	C	H

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Allen, Armstrong, Barbashev, Berube, Binnington, Blais, Bortuzzo, Bouwmeester, Bozak, Chad, Del Zotto, Dunn, Edmundson, Fabbri, Fans, Game, Gunnarsson, Husso, Kyrou, MacEachern, Maroon, NHL, Nolan, O'Reilly, Parayko, Perron, Pietrangelo, Schenn, Schwartz, Score, Steen, Sundqvist, Tarasenko, Team, Thomas, Thorburn, Yeo, Zach

Last Friday's Answer: Allies

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(15) **Auto Technician** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(30) **CARPENTER/LABOR** $9.76 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help carpenters by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Clean work areas, machines, or equipment, to maintain a clean and safe job site. Fasten timbers or lumber with glue, screws, pegs, or nails and install hardware. Perform tie spacing layout and measure, mark, drill or cut. Select tools, equipment, or materials from storage and transport items to work site. Drill holes in timbers or lumber.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(4) **CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN** 14.18 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing, and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of engineering staff or physical scientists. Calculate dimensions, square footage, profile and component specifications, and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects and to ensure conformance to specifications. Confer with supervisor to determine project details such as plan preparation, acceptance testing, and evaluation of field conditions. Analyze proposed site factors and design maps, graphs, tracings, and diagrams to illustrate findings.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Associate Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in practical application of Engineering Science and Technology

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) SALES PERSON - $8.57 to 8.88 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Sell merchandise, such as furniture, motor vehicles and parts, appliances, or apparel to consumers. Greet customers and ascertain what each customer wants or needs. Recommend, select, and help locate or obtain merchandise based on customer needs and desires. Compute sales prices, total purchases, and receive and process cash or credit payment. Prepare merchandise for purchase or rental. Answer questions regarding the store and its merchandise.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 12 months experience
- Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –Marianaslabor.net.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **Environmental Health and Safety Manager** $10.65 to 10.65 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Review, evaluate, and analyze work environments and design programs and procedures to control, eliminate, and prevent disease or injury caused by chemical, physical, and biological agents or ergonomic factors. May conduct inspections and enforce adherence to laws and regulations governing the health and safety of individuals. May be employed in the public or private sector. Includes environmental protection officers. Order suspension of activities that pose threats to workers' health or safety. Investigate accidents to identify causes or to determine how such accidents might be prevented in the future. Recommend measures to help protect workers from potentially hazardous work methods, processes, or materials. Inspect or evaluate workplace environments, equipment, or practices to ensure compliance with safety standards and government regulations. Develop or maintain hygiene programs, such as noise surveys, continuous atmosphere monitoring, ventilation surveys, or asbestos management plans.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree;
- At least 24 months experience in safety standards;
- Must possess various safety training certificates.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Interior Designer** - $8.48 to 9.32 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Plan, design, and furnish interiors of residential, commercial, or industrial buildings. Formulate design which is practical, aesthetic, and conducive to intended purposes, such as raising productivity, selling merchandise, or improving life style. May specialize in a particular field, style, or phase of interior design. Design plans to be safe and to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Coordinate with other professionals, such as contractors, architects, engineers, and lumbers, to ensure job success. Inspect construction work on site to ensure its adherence to the design plans. Use computer-aided drafting (CAD) and related software to produce construction documents. Advise client on interior design factors such as space planning, layout and use of furnishings or equipment, and color coordination.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor's Degree;
At least 24 months experience;
Must have knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in the production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(12) **Mechanics** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools and testers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) **MATERIAL CONTROL MANAGER** $9.02 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Weigh, measure, and check materials, supplies, and equipment for the purpose of keeping relevant records. Duties are primarily clerical by nature. Manage, collect and keep record of samples of products or materials. Document quantity, quality, type, weight, test result data, and value of materials or products to maintain shipping, receiving, and production records and files. Weigh or measure materials, equipment, or products to maintain relevant records, using volume meters, scales, rules, or calipers. Collect or prepare measurement, weight, or identification labels and attach them to products. Examine products or materials, parts, subassemblies, and packaging for damage, defects, or shortages, using specification sheets, gauges, and standards charts. Signal or instruct other workers to weigh, move, or check products

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(06) **Mechanics** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools and testers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(05) SERVICE TECHNICIAN- $10.58 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40hrs a week, Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help plumbers, pipefitters, steamfitters, or pipelayers by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Measure, cut, thread and assemble new pipe, placing the assembled pipe in hangers or other supports. Cut or drill holes in walls or floors to accommodate the passage of pipes. Perform rough-ins, repair and replace fixtures and water heaters, and locate, repair, or remove leaking or broken pipes. Assist pipe fitters in the layout, assembly, and installation of piping for air, ammonia, gas, and water systems. Cut pipe and lift up to fitters. Fit or assist in fitting valves, couplings, or assemblies to tanks, pumps, or systems, using hand tools. Requisition tools and equipment, select type and size of the pipe, and collect and transport materials and equipment to work site. Mount brackets and hangers on walls and ceilings to hold pipes, and set sleeves or inserts to provide support for pipes. Excavate and grade ditches, and lay and join pipe for water and sewer service. Disassemble and remove the damaged or worn pipe.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **STEEL WORKERS** $14.53 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Raise, place, and unite iron or steel girders, columns, and other structural members to form completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Read specifications or blueprints to determine the locations, quantities, or sizes of materials required. Connect columns, beams, and girders with bolts, following blueprints and instructions from supervisors. Bolt aligned structural steel members in position for permanent riveting, bolting, or welding into place. Fasten structural steel members to hoist cables, using chains, cables, or rope. Hoist steel beams, girders, or columns into place, using cranes or signaling hoisting equipment operators to lift and position structural steel members.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Warehouse worker** - $7.93 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Receive, store, and issue materials, equipment, and other items from stockroom, warehouse, or storage yard. Keep records and compile stock reports. Pack and unpack items to be stocked on shelves in stockrooms, warehouses, or storage yards. Store items in an orderly and accessible manner in warehouses, tool rooms, supply rooms, or other areas. Examine and inspect stock items for wear or defects, reporting any damage to supervisors. Receive and count stock items, and record data manually or using a computer. Mark stock items using identification tags, stamps, electric marking tools, or other labeling equipment.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Graduate;
At least 12 months experience;
Must have knowledge in the inventory of construction materials and tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Heavy Equipment Operators - $9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Operating and/or tending machinery equipped with scoops, shovels or buckets to excavate and load loose materials. These machinery may include excavators, backhoes, compactors and bulldozers. Moving levers, depressing foot pedals, and turning dials to operate power machinery. Setting up or inspecting equipment prior to operation. Observing hand signals, grade stakes or other markings. When operating machines so that work can be performed to specifications. Operates machinery to perform activities such as back filling, excavations, vibrating or breaking rocks or concrete.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate
- Minimum 12 months experience
- Knowledge in operating heavy equipment

All interested applicants can send resume to: info@itscorporation.net or visit our office at P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net

ITS CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Civil Engineering Technician $14.18 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of the Operating Manager. Calculate dimentions, square footage, profile and component specifications and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimentional drawings and design layouts for projects to ensure conformance with specifications. Confer with supervisors.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Associate Degree in Civil Engineering
- Minimum 24 months experience
- Civil Engineering license or equivalent

All interested applicants can send resume to:info@itscorporation.net Or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net

ITS CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Accounting Clerk - At least 1 yr. work experience. Proficient in various computer software, such as MS Excel, Word, Peach Tree & other Accounting Software.

Submit Applications To:
PAM PACIFIC ENTERPRISES CORP.
DBA Pena House Boutique and Salon
Ground Floor, Sablan Building, Chalan Kanoa
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.# 670-235-7270

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2)Maintenance/Maintenance Technian - Preferably knowledgeable in carpentry, electrical, mechanical and plumbing repairs.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc.
AYD Compound, Beach Road, San Antonio Village, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.# 235-7011

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Auto Mechanic - Must have a Certificate of an Auto Mechanic. Atleast 1 year work experience. Excellent diagnostic / repair skills of vehicle systems.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc.
AYD Compound, Beach Road, San Antonio Village, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.# 235-7011

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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(18) Maintenance
& Repair Workers, General
$8.33/per hr.

Interested applicants,
pls call 235-2375
email: cfpjcorp.2014@yahoo.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Three (03) Auto Technicians 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience.
- Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Two (02) Mechanics 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience.
- Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670) 234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

WHATZIT Solution: Back-to-front

(1) Accountant

Examine, analyze, and interpret accounting records to prepare financial statements, give advice, or audit and evaluate statements prepared by others. Install or advise on systems of recording costs or other financial and budgetary data. Accounting requires certain hard skills, such as mathematics and expertise with accounting software. Accountants must be detail oriented, have strong analytical skills, and a facility with computer software such as spreadsheet programs to organize and report financial data.

(1) Registered Nurse (RN) – Full Time

The Registered Nurse (RN) demonstrate commitment to health care and patient care by supporting the clinic's providers with patient care by assessing patient health problems and needs, administer nursing care for patients. College graduate degree in Nursing from school approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE), with 1 year of work experience as a Nurse of working in a similar capacity in a health care or medical setting. Must process US NCLEX-RN and is licensed as a RN by CBNE. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast paced clinical environment. Ability to speak and translate in the Chinese language is preferred.

All positions close 5:00pm on Friday, September 06, 2019.

Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume and evidence of education degree(s) and professional licenses claimed. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Testing may be required for some positions. Marianas Medical Center is an equal opportunity employer. The potential applicants/ may apply directly to MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC. Contacting us at (670) 234-3926 or through our email address Mondays through Fridays and is open between 8:00am to 5:00pm for all related recruitment process.

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following position:

YCO Corporation is looking for the following position:

Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
Knowledge in equipment maintenance, repairing, troubleshooting, equipment selection or determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job. Physically fit, with valid drivers license. Must be at least 24 months work related experience with high school diploma. Salary: $8.11 to 9.00/hr. Monday to Friday, 36hr/week, 7 hrs/day. This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opening intent to fill.

Accounting Associate
Atleast 24 months work related experience with High School Diploma, Proficient in microsoft software programs and accounting software such as quick book and peachtree. Knowledge on US generally accepted accounting principles. Comply with Federal State and company policies procedures and Regulations. Compile statistical, financial, accounting or auditing reports and tables pertaining to such cash receipts, expenditures, accounts payables procedures. Proficient in the English language (verbal, written and reading). Active listening, critical thinking. With Certificate of employment. The required employment certificate will be applied equally to both U.S. workers and CW workers. Salary: $9.87/hr. 36 hrs./week, 7 hrs./day. From Monday to Friday. This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opportunity intent to fill with this position.

Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Driver
Required commercial driver license, physically fit with truck driver certificate. Knowledge in record operational or production data, record service or repair activities. Atleast 12 months work related experience with High School Diploma. Salary: $8.00/hr. /hr.36 hrs./week,6 hrs./day Monday to Saturday This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opportunity intent to fill with this position.

Auto Mechanics/Technician
At least 24 months working related experience with High School diploma. Knowledge in repairing, troubleshooting opertation and control, ability of critical thinking and judgement and decision making. Knowledge in sales and marketing of automotive items. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their design, uses, repair and maintenance. Knowledge in customer and personal service. Must have a updated drivers license, physically fit with auto mechanic certificate equal to both US worker and CW-1 worker. Salary: $8.02 to 8.30/hr, 36hr per week, 7 hrs./day. Monday to Friday. This job opportunity is temporary, full time position. There is one (1) job opening the employer to fill.

Applicant may submit application to 2nd flr Yumul bldg. Mnsgr Guerrero Rd Chalan Kiya Saipan MP 96950 or email to ycocorporationlabor@yahoo.com. From Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. Tel (670)233-3112/3.

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Injured Luck announces abrupt retirement

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)— Andrew Luck watched one last game from the sideline Saturday.

Then he said goodbye to the NFL.

The Indianapolis Colts quarterback heard boos as he walked away from the field, then walked to the podium and made the surprise decision official. The oft-injured star is retiring at age 29.

"I'm in pain, I'm still in pain. It's been four years of this pain, rehab cycle," Luck said. "It's a myriad of issues — calf strain, posterior ankle impingement, high ankle sprain. Part of my journey going forward will be figuring out how to feel better."

Luck wasn't planning to make the announcement following Saturday's 27-17 loss to the Chicago Bears. But when ESPN first reported the news during the fourth quarter, Luck changed the plan for a Sunday afternoon announcement.

Instead, he held a 25-minute impromptu news conference.

At times he sounded wistful. At others, his voice cracked with emotion.

One thing was clear: The endless barrage of injuries stripped away his joy for the game and prompted him to walk away so he could enjoy the life he wants.

"There's no doubt when you hear him talk about the cycle of pain and injury and rehab, you can hear that," coach Frank Reich said. "There's a saying in football that everyone knows and everybody lives by, it's next man up and even though this situation is unique, no one is exempt."

That task now falls to Jacoby Brissett, a fourth-year player whom the Colts acquired in a cutdown weekend trade two years ago who has been practicing with the starters since April.

He went 4-11 as a starter in the 2017 season after taking over for opening day starter Scott Tolzien.

But the Colts had already been preparing for the possibility Luck might not be ready for the Sept. 8 season opener against the Los Angeles Chargers. Luck was diagnosed with a strained left calf in March and team officials kept him out of all of the team's offseason workouts.

He returned to limited action when training camp opened in late July. After three practices, though, the lingering pain near his ankle forced him back into rehab. He hadn't practiced with the team since, though he did throw passes in pregame warmups before last week's preseason game.

"I had a thought that it might be my last time throwing at Lucas Oil as a current member of the Colts team," Luck said. "And I wanted to make sure I could go out and enjoy it."

It wasn't just the leg, though.

He played with shoulder pain for most of 2015 and 2016, and his 2015 season ended when he suffered a lacerated kidney. He missed all of 2017 following shoulder surgery and then the happy-go-lucky former Stanford star dealt with more pain and more endless months of rehab.

The Colts bet big on Luck in 2012.

They cut an injured Peyton Manning to take Luck with the top overall pick, fully believing he would be their franchise quarterback for the next 10 to 15 years.

Team owner Jim Irsay called it a "no-brainer" because his aging team needed to rebuild.

"I never felt that he (Luck) owed me to play until he's 40 or until he's 36 or whatever," Irsay said. "I mean, this is an unusual situation."

Luck delivered quickly on his promise.

He led the Colts to the playoffs in each of his first three seasons and to the AFC championship game after the 2014 season — without missing a start. But a subpar offensive line struggled to keep Luck upright and in 2015, the shoulder and kidney injuries forced him to miss nine games. The Colts finished 8-8 and missed the playoffs.

In 2016, after Luck opted not to have shoulder surgery, then coach Chuck Pagano gave Luck extra days off to try and keep him healthy. Luck made 15 starts that season though the Colts again finished 8-8 and missed the playoffs.

While Luck had surgery for a partially torn labrum in January 2017, he never felt right and after throwing for two weeks in the fall was shut down for the rest of the season.

Last year, Luck looked like his old self. He established career highs in attempts (639), completions (430) and completion rate (67.3 percent), throwing for 4,593 yards with 39 touchdowns and 15 interceptions as he led the Colts back to the playoffs, earned his fourth Pro Bowl selection and was the runaway winner of the league's Comeback Player of the Year award.

Then came the mysterious calf-ankle injury that again never felt quite right.

So after marrying his longtime girlfriend this spring and now awaiting the birth of his first child, Luck called it quits.

"I am going to retire," he said. "This is not an easy decision. It's the hardest decision of my life. But it is the right decision for me."

Players around the league were just as stunned as the Colts.

"It was mind-blowing," Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson said. "It's something that of course caught everyone off guard. He can control his own future. He's a great player. He's a great quarterback. One of the top five quarterbacks in the league. He's doing it for the right reasons for himself."

Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes, the reigning MVP, said: "Knowing Andrew he's a great football player, of course, but he's also a great human being — I know that he's going to make the right decision for himself and his family."

Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson, who was in the same draft class as Luck, said he found out from offensive tackle Duane Brown before the Seahawks' game against the Los Angeles Chargers and was surprised, like everyone else.

"We all expect we're going to play this game forever. The reality is for most players, it's not very long," Wilson said. "I've always loved being around him, and the times we've gotten to be around each other. I know this has to be really hard on him. Just praying for him to stay encouraged."

Reich had said he hoped to have an answer about Luck's availability for the Sept. 8 season opener after the third preseason game. This might not have been the one he wanted—and certainly didn't expect.

"Teams win, don't write the end of the story yet," Colts general manager Chris Ballard said. "I'm telling you the story's not over yet."

Luck finishes his seven-year career with 2,000 completions, 3,290 attempts, 23,671 yards, 171 touchdowns and 83 interceptions and those stinging boos as he left the field.

"I'd be lying if I said I didn't hear the reaction," he said. "It hurt, I'll be honest with you, it hurt."

AP

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck speaks during a news conference following the team's NFL preseason football game against the Chicago Bears, Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019, in Indianapolis. The oft-injured star is retiring at age 29.

Opinion: Is Bridgewater answer for Luck-less Colts

Saturday night's stunning news of Andrew Luck's retirement from football at age 29 arrived like an earthquake for the Indianapolis Colts.

Everything changes.

The foundation is suddenly shaking for this team on the rise, one that was expected to seriously contend for a championship this season. Because Luck was the engine, the centerpiece, one of the best quarterbacks in football who still was young enough that the best years of his career might be yet to come.

Whereas people were once mentioning the Colts for the Super Bowl, they've already started to mention them for a top draft pick and a chance to grab Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa or another top college quarterback.

It doesn't have to be that way, Indianapolis.

There's a quarterback waiting to save the day and keep a promising season on track: Teddy Bridgewater.

Bridgewater, the former University of Louisville star, is only 26 years old.

He has proven he can be an effective NFL starting quarterback. He's finishing up the preseason in New Orleans. He'll be the Saints' backup for Drew Brees for the second season in a row, and he might just be the best backup in the NFL.

It's easy to forget now that Bridgewater never actually lost his starting position with the Minnesota Vikings on the field. It was a severe knee injury, of course, that sadly derailed his promising career.

But Bridgewater has since proven he is healthy and ready if needed. Presumably, he is Brees' heir apparent in New Orleans, but you never know how things will play out in the NFL.

Meanwhile, the Colts are in a tough spot. As damaging as Luck's abrupt exit looks to be, this is not a franchise that is in rebuilding mode. These Colts have been built to win now, and they still can. But they'll need to get a quarterback capable of making it happen, inspiring teammates and fans. It's a bonus if that quarterback is young enough to build around and not just be a stopgap. Bridgewater is all of the above.

In the NFL, the list of backup quarterbacks available on short notice who can check those boxes is awfully short. For the Colts, Bridgewater looks like an obvious answer.

After bowing to Australia, US vulnerable at World Cup

MELBOURNE—The U.S. men's basketball team had never lost to Australia. It had gone nearly 13 years without losing a game with an NBA-stocked roster. It was in the midst of the longest winning streak in team history.

Until Saturday.

The Americans went Down Under, and went down.

Australia beat the U.S. 98-94 before a crowd of more than 52,000, an outcome that ended the Americans' 78-game winning streak and cast major doubt on the team's ability to capture a third consecutive World Cup in China.

"Nobody wins forever," USA Basketball coach Gregg Popovich said.

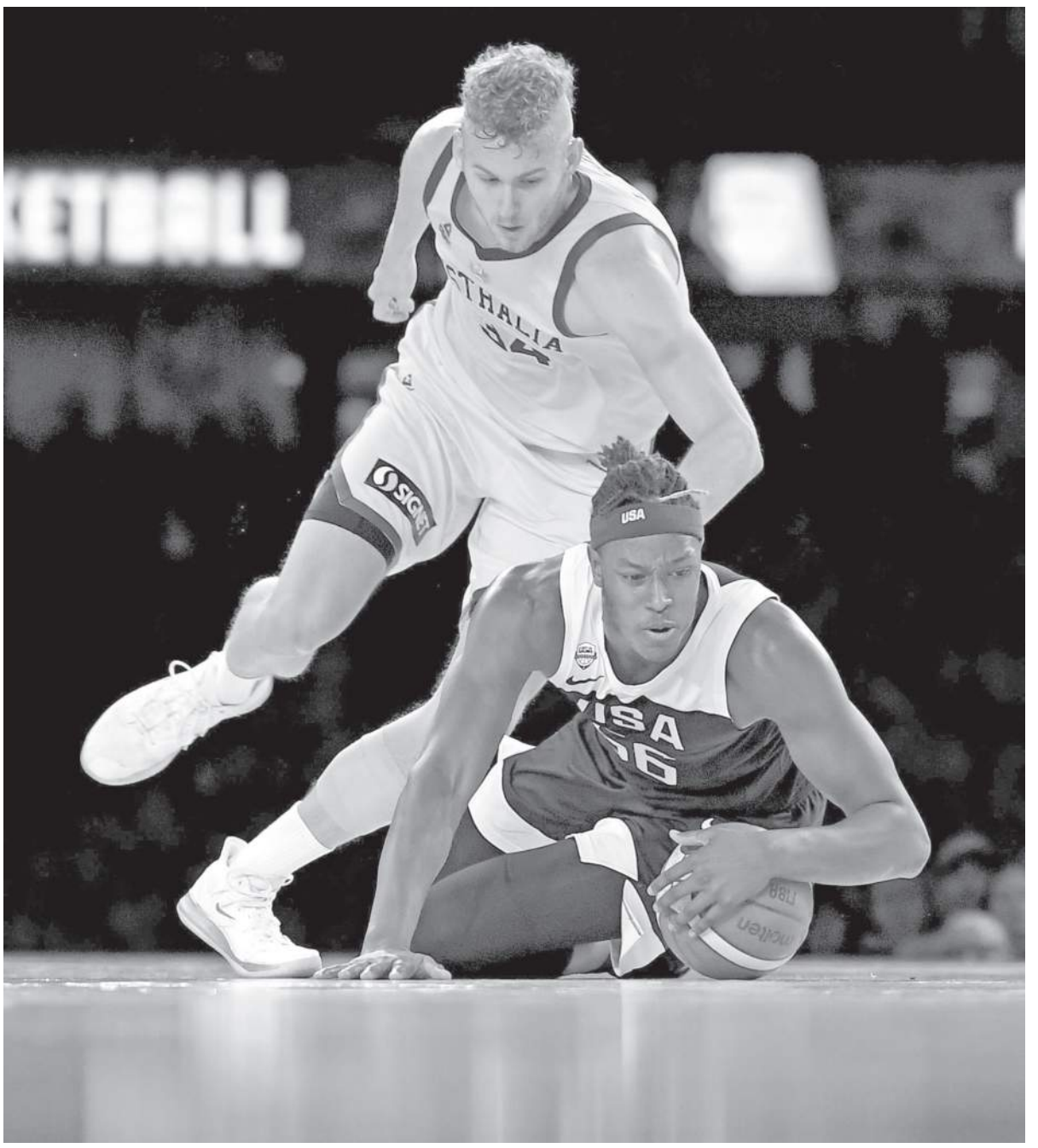
The last time the Americans—counting major international tournaments and exhibitions with NBA players on the floor—lost a game was the semifinals of the 2006 world championships. The program has won gold in every competition since, including three straight in the Olympics and two consecutive World Cup titles.

But now, the gold standard of international basketball looks unusually vulnerable.

"It's a friendly so we want to keep it in context," Australia center Andrew Bogut said. "But we did make history tonight, the first senior men's Australian team to beat an American team."

Popovich said all the right things after the game. He lauded the Australian players and those tasked with putting their team together. He raved about Patty Mills, who scored 30 points to lead the Boomers to their biggest win. He good-naturedly vowed that when he and Mills get back to San Antonio, where they've been together as coach and guard for the last eight years, he will find a way to exact revenge.

More seriously, though, he sounded an alarm for the Americans.



AP

United States' Myles Turner, bottom and Australia's Jock Landale compete for the ball during their exhibition game in Melbourne, Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019.

"The loss means that we need to play better," Popovich said. "It's a measure of who you are."

And who they are is still to be determined.

The U.S. has played three exhibitions on their pre-World Cup tour, and Popovich has used three different starting lineups. The rotation is not clear, not even to the coaches. Players—most never having been teammates until this month—are figuring out their individual roles and the broader scheme.

"I think when you look at international play, every team, they kind of have their calling card of what they fall back into, their system, their sets," U.S. forward Harrison Barnes of the Sacramento Kings said. "For us, we're still getting to that point."

There's time for that. A little time, anyway.

The final exhibition for the Americans is Monday against Canada in Sydney. Once the U.S. gets to Shanghai, its first three World Cup games shouldn't be overly taxing—the Americans are ranked No. 1 in the world while group opponents Turkey, the Czech Republic and Japan are ranked 17th, 24th and 48th, respectively.

From there, the tests figure to ramp up quickly. Serbia, France, Greece, Spain and now the Australians all arrive in China as legitimate title hopefuls. With most of the top U.S. stars from the NBA like LeBron James, James Harden, Paul George and Stephen Curry sitting out this summer, the rest of the world clearly isn't stuck playing for second place.

"You can learn as much or more from losing as winning," Popovich said. "We're all used to winning and losing. The USA has been a little bit different over the last 12 years—they're only used to winning. So hopefully we can get back on that track."

Since training camp started three weeks ago in Las Vegas, Popovich has expressed concern about the task of molding individuals into not just a cohesive unit but one good enough to win the World Cup.

He warned it wouldn't be easy.

Saturday's outcome proved him right.

"This is a group of guys that's worked very hard to get to know each other and get to know a system," Popovich said. "And whatever comes, we can handle. Our job is to try to get better every day and we learned some things tonight. We're actually a better team now than at the start of the game because of the knowledge that we gained. So you move on."

Lightning strike at Tour Championship; play suspended

ATLANTA (AP)—Six people were injured Saturday when lightning struck a 60-foot pine at the Tour Championship where they were taking cover from rain and showered them with debris, Atlanta police said.

The strike hit the top of the tree just off the 16th tee and shattered the bark all the way to the bottom.

Brad Uhl of Atlanta was crammed under a hospitality tent to the right of the 16th hole that was open to the public.

"There was just a big explosion and then an aftershock so strong you could feel the wind from it," Uhl said after the last of the ambulances pulled out of the golf course. "It was just a flash out of the corner of the eye. It was raining and everyone was huddled near the tree."

Uhl said the people on the ground were moving around before the ambulances arrived.

Atlanta Police spokesman James H. White III said five men and one female juvenile had sought shelter beneath the tree that was struck by lightning. He said they were taken to hospitals for further treatment, all of them alert, conscious and breathing.

Ambulances streamed into the private club about 6 miles east of downtown Atlanta, where 30 players are competing for the FedEx Cup and its $15 million prize. The players already had been taken into the clubhouse before lightning hit, and before long East Lake was hit with a ground-shaking clap of thunder.

Mark Russell, the PGA Tour's vice president of rules and competitions, said there were dual lightning strikes to the maintenance area and the tree on the 16th hole.

Justin Thomas, who had a one-shot lead through five holes when play was halted, said players were eating in the clubhouse when "it felt like the entire clubhouse shook" from the thunder clap.

"The first I heard anything was from one of my friends who came out to watch," Thomas said. "He said, 'Dude, I think someone got struck by lightning right next to us.' And then word started spreading."

Thomas said he had left tickets for another friend who was on the opposite side of where the tree was hit.

The PGA Tour canceled the rest of golf Saturday, with the round to resume at 8 a.m. Sunday, followed by the final round.

Russell said signs were posted on scoreboards of severe weather approaching.

"When we suspend play, we encourage everybody to leave and take shelter anywhere they can," Russell said. "We opened up hospitality areas that are grounded, a lot of other places like that. You've got a lot of people, and you have to do that quickly, and sometimes people don't take shelter."

The starting times for the third round were moved back by more than two hours to end at 7 p.m. on NBC Sports. Russell said they were aware of a forecast for storms, but he described them as "pop-up thunderstorms."

"We have a meteorologist on site. We can monitor that," he said. "And a lot of times, we get lucky and we don't get hit with thunderstorms, especially when it's a situation when they're pop-ups like that."

Last week at the BMW Championship in the Chicago suburbs, Phil Mickelson was delayed getting to the golf course when lightning struck the top of his hotel, causing a precautionary evacuation.

PGA Tour-sanctioned events have not had a death from lightning since the summer of 1991. One man was killed and five were injured from lightning at the U.S. Open at Hazeltine outside Minneapolis. Two months later, a man was struck and killed by lightning walking to his car during a storm delay at the PGA Championship at Crooked Stick in Indiana.

Retief Goosen was struck by lightning as a teenager in South Africa. He survived and went on to win two U.S. Opens, and he was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in June.

Koepka leads

World No. 1 Brooks Koepka sits on 13 under at the top of the leaderboard after the second round.

The American signed for a three-under 67 on day two, mixing four birdies—including a two-putt birdie on the par-5 18th— with a bogey for a one-shot lead in Atlanta.

Justin Thomas carded a round of 68 while Rory McIlroy shot back-to-back birdies on his final two holes to take a share of second place on 12 under.

The season-ending tournament uses an adapted sliding scale scoring format to decide the winner of the $15-million FedExCup first prize, meaning Thomas started the week on 10 under and Koepka began on seven under.

Koepka got off to a steady start in the second round, following up his first birdie on the par-3 sixth hole with two more in a row.

But a weather delay interrupted his momentum and it was only at the last hole that he was able to edge ahead.

McIlroy took better advantage of the 90-minute delay, firing his first birdie at the 12th before finishing his round with a 15-foot birdie putt on the 17th and a closing birdie on the 18th.

Dodgers beat Yanks in matchup of baseball's best

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers first baseman Matt Beaty attempts to throw to first after misplaying a grounder by New York Yankees' Brett Gardner during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles, Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kenley Jansen escaped a bases-loaded jam in a bizarre ninth inning that saw both managers on the field trying to figure out what happened, and the Los Angeles Dodgers held off the New York Yankees 2-1 Saturday.

Jansen struck out Mike Tauchman and pinch-hitter Gary Sánchez to end a matchup between the teams with the best records in baseball.

But it was the play right before that to load the bases that left most everyone in the ballpark wondering what was going on.

There were runners at first and second with one out when Gio Urshela hit a grounder to third baseman Justin Turner, who looked to start a game-ending double play. Second baseman Max Muncy caught Turner's flip but then got wiped out by Brett Gardner's hard slide for an apparent forceout.

Gleyber Torres, who started the play on second, rounded third and then headed home with Muncy down on the ground, trying to score the tying run. Instead, Torres was stopped by the umpires because time had been called. The strange sequence set off a 2-minute replay review. Gardner was called safe at second, beating the throw with a hard but legal slide.

Justin Turner hit a two-run homer in the third for the Dodgers. Jansen earned his 27th save.

Aaron Judge homered for the second straight day, connecting in the fourth.

Tony Gonsolin (2-1) allowed one run, struck out two and walked two.

Nationals 7, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Trea Turner reached base four times and scored twice, Yan Gomes and Howie Kendrick each drove in two runs and surging Washington beat the Cubs.

Washington has won four straight and six of seven to extend its lead over Chicago for the top NL wild-card spot to three games.

Chicago first baseman Anthony Rizzo exited in the fifth inning with tightness in his middle back—he missed time in May with back trouble.

Turner got Washington off to a quick start, going 2 for 3 with two walks and a stolen base to extend his streak of reaching base safely to 31 games, the longest current streak in the majors. Anthony Rendon stretched his hitting streak to 11 games and drove in a run.

Red Sox 5, Padres 4

In San Diego, Brock Holt homered on All-Star closer Kirby Yates' first pitch of the ninth inning to lift Boston past the Padres.

The Red Sox blew a 4-0 lead before Holt put them ahead again by hitting his third homer of the season to open the ninth. The ball sailed over right fielder Hunter Renfroe and into the Home Run Deck. Yates dropped to 0-4.

Matt Barnes (4-4) pitched the eighth for the win and Brandon Workman pitched the ninth for his eighth save.

Orioles 7, Rays 1

In Baltimore, Pedro Severino hit his first career grand slam, Hanser Alberto and Jonathan Villar homered on successive pitches and Baltimore beat Tampa Bay.

John Means (9-9) allowed one run and five hits over seven innings. He struck out seven and walked none.

Michael Brosseau homered for the Rays.

After hitting into a double play with the bases loaded in the first inning, Severino got a second chance with the bases filled in the third and sent an 0-1 pitch from Austin Pruitt into the left-field seats. In the fourth, Alberto hit a solo shot off Pruitt and Villar connected on the following pitch for a 7-0 lead.

Pirates 14, Reds 0

In Pittsburgh, Josh Bell topped 100 RBIs for the first time in the majors, hitting a three-run homer as the Pirates routed Cincinnati.

After Colin Moran gave Pittsburgh a 7-0 lead with a pinch-hit grand slam in the sixth inning, Bell lined a fastball from Kevin Gausman into the left-field bleachers in the seventh to reach 102 RBIs.

Bell's career-high 32 home runs matched Bobby Bonilla's mark from 1990 for the most by a Pirates switch-hitter.

Phillies 9, Marlins 3

In Miami, Corey Dickerson had four hits and five RBIs as Philadelphia beat Miami.

Zach Eflin pitched six solid innings for his first win since June 24. Eflin (8-11) allowed two runs, six hits and struck out two. Three Phillies relievers allowed one run—on Jorge Alfaro's homer off Mike Morin in the seventh—over the final three innings.

Scott Kingery's three-run homer off Miami rookie starter Jordan Yamamoto highlighted a six-run fourth and erased a 1-0 deficit.

Indians 4, Royals 2

In Cleveland, Franmil Reyes hit a three-run homer to help the Indians beat Kansas City in a game in which the Indians lost third baseman Jose Ramirez to a right wrist injury.

Reyes' 30th homer of the season highlighted a four-run third inning against the Royals' Glenn Sparkman (3-9).

With the win, Cleveland moved ahead of Tampa Bay into one of the two AL wild-card spots.

Ramirez, a two-time All-Star, left the game in the first inning after fouling off a pitch. He immediately bent over in pain before walking off the field with a trainer. A team spokesman said he exited with "right wrist discomfort."

Astros 5, Angels 2

In Houston, Alex Bregman hit his career-high 32nd homer and Wade Miley earned his seventh straight win as the Astros beat Los Angeles.

The AL-West leading Astros tied the New York Yankees for the best record in the AL at 84-47. The Angels lost their fourth in a row.

Michael Brantley extended his hitting streak to 17 games with a two-run homer in the first inning. Bregman upped the lead to 5-0 with a three-run homer in the third.

Miley (13-4) yielded one run on five hits with four strikeouts over five innings. Will Harris pitched the ninth for his first save of the season.

Rangers 4, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Willie Calhoun and Danny Santana homered, rookie Kolby Allard pitched into the seventh inning and Texas beat the White Sox.

Allard (2-0) allowed six hits, struck out eight and walked none in his fourth start since he was acquired in a trade with Atlanta last month.

Calhoun and Nick Solak had two hits apiece for the Rangers, who had dropped seven of 10.

Giants 10, Athletics 5

In Oakland, Stephen Vogt's three-run homer highlighted an eight-run eighth and broke it open against his former club, Kevin Pillar hit a tiebreaking, two-run double in San Francisco's biggest inning of 2019, and the Giants beat the Athletics.

Brandon Crawford homered in the fifth and hit an RBI single in the eighth, when San Francisco tied it on a wild pitch by A.J. Puk, before Pillar's double to right. Evan Longoria had RBI singles in the sixth and eighth off loser Yusmeiro Petit (3-3).

Blue Jays 7, Mariners 5

In Seattle, Bo Bichette and Teoscar Hernandez hit solo home runs, and Toronto spoiled Felix Hernandez's return to the mound, beating Seattle.

Felix Hernandez struck out four over 5 2/3 innings and allowed just three hits in his first appearance since May 11. However, Toronto took advantage of Seattle's bullpen and rallied with a four-run seventh inning to snap a six-game losing streak.

Billy McKinney, Bichette, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Rowdy Tellez drove in runs in the inning as the Blue Jays batted around.

Cardinals 6, Rockies 0

In St. Louis, Harrison Bader homered, Dakota Hudson allowed just two hits over six innings, and St. Louis defeated Colorado.

Hudson (13-6) extended his consecutive scoreless innings streak to a career-high 18 2/3 as the Cardinals won their third straight and sixth in their last seven games.

The Cardinals moved 1 1/2 games ahead of the Cubs for first place in the NL Central.

Hudson struck out two and walked three before being lifted for a pinch hitter after throwing 95 pitches. Tyler Webb, Giovanny Gallegos and Dominic Leone completed the four-hit shutout.

Brewers 4, Diamondbacks 0

In Milwaukee, Eric Thames and Trent Grisham hit back-to-back homers, Keston Hiura knocked in two runs and Chase Anderson pitched five strong innings as the Brewers blanked Arizona.

With the win, Milwaukee pulled within two games of Chicago in the race for the second NL wild-card spot. Arizona dropped 5½ games back of the Cubs, who lost to the Nationals earlier in the day.

Arizona had just four hits, three of which came against Anderson.

Braves 9, Mets 5

In New York, newly signed Francisco Cervelli had three hits and three RBIs in his Atlanta debut, and the Braves won their seventh straight.

Ronald Acuña Jr. hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth, and Billy Hamilton dashed home with another run on the play thanks to a mental lapse by the Mets.

Freddie Freeman hit his career-high 35th home run in the ninth. Ozzie Albies and Josh Donaldson also went deep for the NL East-leading Braves.

Twins 8, Tigers 5

In Minneapolis, Miguel Sano's three-run homer capped a five-run rally in the fifth inning, Jake Cave and Max Kepler also connected and AL Central-leading Minnesota beat Detroit.

Sano and Cave homered twice Friday night in a 9-6 loss to the Tigers, who have the worst record in the league. The Twins trailed 4-1 in this game before their comeback.

Cave led off the fifth with a double, Kepler doubled home a run and Nelson Cruz hit an RBI single. Sano pulled his 26th homer into the second deck in left off Edwin Jackson (3-7).

Cave hit a two-run homer in the sixth off Matt Hall. Kepler had three hits, including his 35th home run and sixth leadoff shot of the season.

IT&E Dark blows out Light & Salt

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

IT&E Dark routed Light & Salt, 76-55, in the curtain-raiser in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Thursday at the Civic Center Court.

IT&E Dark got its first win in four games, as it established an early lead and never relinquished it. Dan Chan and Ivan Devero made 7 and 6 points, respectively, lifting IT&E Dark to a 19-11 advantage.

In the second quarter, IT&E Dark remained strong and outgunned Light & Salt with Alferic Aguon firing 9 points and Devero adding 6 for their 41-26 halftime lead.

IT&E Dark continued its dominance of Light & Salt when the game resumed to secure the 18-point winning margin.

In the second game, Mawati triumphed against Saipan Adventure, 71-67.

Mawati started slow before turning the tables on Saipan Adventure in the second quarter where the former delivered 29 points. Mawati was down after the first period, 9-18, and quickly made the move in the second to knot the count by the halftime break, 38-all.

Frank Ferrer, Webb Gontar, and Jerome Directo combined for 18 of Mawati's total points in the second quarter. They then continued to lead Mawati's offense in the third period to grab the lead, 59-52, and the team kept the upper hand in the fourth with Arjay Nonato stepping up and delivering 6 points.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
IT&E Dark's Ivan Devero drives against Connie's BBQ's Austin Camacho during an earlier game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League at the Civic Center Court. Devero scored 16 points in their 76-55 rout of Light & Salt last Thursday.

First Game

IT&E Dark 76—Devero 26, Aguon 14, Chan 9, Castro 9, Dayrit 6, Cabrera 4, Basco 4, Garcia 3, Duero 1.

Light & Salt 55—R. Usi 22, Natividad 10, Bautista 6, Pineda 5, M. Usi 3, Delos Santos 3, Marquez 2, Villaluna 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-18, 41-26, 58-42, 76-55

Second Game

Mawati 71—Nonato 16, Ferrer 16, Directo 15, Gontar 12, Reyes 4, Velasco 4, Avila 4.

Saipan Adventure 67—Mungcal 17, Almario 17, Alipio 14, Ocampo 6, Flores 6, Salazar 2, Maesa 2, Morales 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-18, 38-38, 59-52, 71-67

Federer focuses on US Open

NEW YORK—Roger Federer feels as strong as he has "in years" entering the US Open, having put behind him an epic loss to Novak Djokovic in last month's Wimbledon final.

"This is probably the best I've felt in years coming into the US Open again, which is encouraging," Federer said.

"I'm ready for the US Open. It's going to be a tough tournament to win, no doubt about it. I feel like I'm part of that group who can do it."

The 38-year-old Swiss star owns a record 20 Grand Slam singles titles but squandered two championship points in the fifth set and fell 7-6 (7/5), 1-6, 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 13-12 (7/3) after four hours and 57 minutes—the longest singles final in Wimbledon history.

There's still a sting for Federer to be the first player since 1948 to lose the Wimbledon men's final after being one point from victory. But he is hoping to channel the emotions positively at the US Open.

"I've been there before, had some tough losses along the way. So many great wins, as well," Federer said.

"I was just more upset rather than being sad. I think being upset made me get over that finals much easier than being sad, dwelling over it too much. I was not going to be too down on myself. "I hope it's obviously going to help me for here."

The No. 3 seed Federer opens on Monday night at Arthur Ashe Stadium against 190th-ranked qualifier Sumit Nagal of India.

Federer admitted struggling for a couple of days after the Wimbledon final loss but a caravan vacation with his wife and four children left little time for regrets.

"I didn't have that much time thinking about all the missed opportunities," he said.

"Sometimes you have flashbacks—I could have done that, should have done that. Next day you're having a glass of wine with your wife thinking, 'The semis was pretty good. Even the finals was pretty good'."

Federer arrived in New York off his fastest loss in 16 years, falling to Andrey Rublev in the Cincinnati third round in only 62 minutes.

"Cincinnati might be a good thing that I lost early. Who knows?" said Federer. "It's maybe one of those things that sometimes needs to happen, like when I won at the Australian Open, went to Dubai, lost first round in '17, then went on to win Indian Wells and Miami."

"Played a great Wimbledon. Needed to get knocked down in Cincy, get my act together, train hard. That's what I did," he added.

CNMI

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CNMI player with his towering presence, but the former could not get close to the ball with the visiting team anticipating the leather and kicking it out.

However, third time proved to be the charm for the CNMI crew, as Fajardo continued to loiter around the penalty area and the shortest player on the pitch leapt, catching the defender off guard with the game-winning header.

After Fajardo's shot, Beijing Elite remained persistent and made repeated attempts to equalize the game anew, but it was either denied by the Teen Ayuyus' defense nor the visiting team overshot its mark.

Even at the last minute of extra time, Beijing Elite tried to knot the count when Chao Li got away from two CNMI defenders, but his lob went over the goal crossbar.

The CNMI-Beijing Elite tiff was extended for five minutes, as there were several delays in the regulation with players from both teams having second motion every time they collided. Many players were given yellow guards and the match was halted on a couple of occasion to break players off and give those who went down the pitch time to recover or be escorted back to their bench.

CNMI coach Michiteru Mita acknowledged that it was indeed a highly physical game and he was pleased that his players hung tough in the end.

"Both teams wanted to win, so you expect that kind of game. So, I am happy that our boys were able to control themselves and played mentally strong. This kind of game was a good experience for our players because they learned why it's important to keep your focus in the match and not rush things," said Mita.

Besides Fajardo, three other CNMI players scored in their close win over Beijing Elite. Taka Borja hit the board in the eighth minute, while John Michael Rojas and Joshua De Leon delivered for the Teen Ayuyus in the 26th and 43rd minute, respectively.

Yifan Zhang led Beijing Core with his goals in the 38th and 39th minute, while Zhenxing Wang also made it to the board in the 60th off a penalty kick.

Despite the loss, Beijing Core was proud of its debut match.

Midfielder Ye Xiao, through an interpreter, said their players are in their 40s and to play against a U18 team and do well is already an achievement. They believed they gave the Teen Ayuyus a run for their money. Xiao added that playing against a national team, they expected nothing but a very tough opposition and the home squad showed them that.

Meanwhile, the M-League All-Stars also eked out a close victory over Beijing 97 Return United Football Club in the second match last Saturday, 3-2.

Martin Jambor drilled a pair of goals for the M-League All-Stars, while Daniel Agulto recorded the other goal for the selection. Hongpeng Li and Xiong Zhe Li posted the two goals for Beijing 97 Return.

After the visiting teams dropped their opener, they returned to the NMISTC last night and played in the second game. In the first match, it was the CNMI U18 versus the M-League All-Stars.

The four-team tournament will conclude tonight with the CNMI U18 taking on Beijing 87 at 5pm and the M-League All-Stars battling Beijing Elite at 7pm.

TINIAN

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bounding, steals, and scoring. Whatever they do, they do it well," Nabors added.

Nabors also said the team's biggest challenge was finding places to practice but they were able to overcome it and "we came over here ready to play, and executed the game plan," he said.

The Pacific Amusement/NMI Rollers Youth Basketball Tournament was the first league the Tinian Typhoons have participated in since Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the island.

Tinian was awarded the inaugural league's perpetual championship trophy and the team vows to come back next season to defend its title.

Tinian Typhoons 60—G. Santos 17, Epity 13, Cruz 9, Borja 7, T. Santos 7, Reyes 7.

Ol'Aces 58—Santos 17, Laniyo 15, Atan 11, Deleon Guerrero 6, Omelau 4, Ichihara 2, Kaipat 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-19, 29-24, 49-47, 51-51, 60-58 (OT)

CAROL

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quarterfinals after prevailing in her first two matches. Lee, who was eliminated in the Round of 16 in the same Grade 2 event last year, won over Australia's Cyan Sun last Wednesday, 6-1, 6-4, and Culley, 6-3, 6-4, before losing to Talia Gibson, also from the Land Down Under. Gibson eked out a 7-6 (6) victory in the first set of their quarterfinal game, while Lee notched a 6-2 triumph in the second. The Aussie then earned her second straight win over Lee after taking the deciding third set, 6-4. Gibson, who earlier defeated Lee in the semis of the 2019 Oceania Closed Junior Championships in Fiji, ended up topping the 2019 Australian Winter International after outclassing Gadecki in the finals, 6-3, 6-3.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Carol Lee, seen here in an ITF Juniors tournament hosted on Saipan, made it to the semifinals of the doubles event in the 2019 Australian Winter International in Tweed Heads, New South Wales.

Injured Luck announces abrupt retirement

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Tinian tops Ol'Aces in finale

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Tinian Typhoons pulled off a 60-58 overtime victory over the Ol'Aces in the U18 division finals of the Pacific Amusement /NMI Rollers Youth Basketball Tournament at the Koblerville Gymnasium last Saturday.

Eron Borja made 4 points in the extra period, while Gregory Santos and Robert Reyes added 2 each in Tinian's close win and upset over the No. 1 seed Ol'Aces. Tyler Santos also scored in the extension, connecting on his first free throw. He missed the second one and there was a battle for the rebound with neither team able to get possession, as time expired, handing the Typhoons the win.

Gregory Santos top-scored for Tinian with his 17 points, while Leo Epity contributed. 13.

Coby Santos led the Ol'Aces, as he also recorded 17 points, while Jesstin Laniyo had 15 points.

After the tough win, Tinian Typhoons coach Keith Nabors credited the success of the team to the hard work each member put in, the skills they contributed, and the tight-knit community they came from.

"It just goes to show their dedication and hard work. The boys put in the hard work and the practice this week. It's them wanting to come up here and take the win back home. It feels good, these kids have been playing together their whole life and this is just a culmination of their hard work," he said.

"When you're able to grow up together, I think you're going to have more success. We don't have the number of athletes that Saipan has, but with the number of athletes we do have, they execute their part whether it be on defense, re-

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KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Tinian players and officials pose with their championship trophy after beating the Ol'Aces in overtime, 60-58, in the boys U18 division finals of the Pacific Amusement /NMI Rollers Youth Basketball Tournament at the Koblerville Gymnasium last Saturday.

CNMI nips Beijing Elite

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's John Michael Rojas, left, tries to kick the ball away from Beijing Elite's Yuanyang Yu during the second half of their game in the Northern Marianas Invitational Football Tournament at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team nosed out the Beijing Elite Core Football Club, 4-3, in an intense opening game in the Northern Marianas Invitational Football Tournament at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.

Oliver Fajardo hit the dagger, as he soared over taller Beijing Elite players and connected on a header in the 62nd minute off a corner kick. Fajardo's back-breaking shot came after the Teen Ayuyus failed to make something happen in their first two corner kick attempts.

In those two instances, Fajardo jockeyed for position in the penalty area against a Beijing defender, who dwarfed the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CNMI Boys U18 National Team and Beijing Elite Core Football Club players trade high-fives after the opening game in the Northern Marianas Invitational Football Tournament last Saturday.at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Carol reaches semis of Aussie tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Carol Lee made it to the Final Four of the doubles event in the 2019 Australian Winter International in Tweed Heads, New South Wales.

The CNMI junior player teamed up with China's Zongyu Li and they defeated Australia's Jasmine Adams and Cassidy Mataia in the quarterfinals, 7-5, 6-2, to set up a semis showdown against another Aussie pair—Olivia Gadecki and Amy Stevens.

The No. 3 seed Australians moved into the semis following a 6-0, 6-1 triumph over their compatriots Meeka Marshalls and Mia Tsoukalas.

Gadecki and Stevens then went on to stun the No. 1 seed Lee and Li in the semis, 6-4, 6-1, and complete the upset in the doubles event after slipping past No. 2 Roopa Bains and Natasha Russell in the finals last Saturday, 3-6, 7-5, 10-8.

Despite losing in the semis to the eventual winners, Lee managed to improve her performance in the same tournament. Last year, the Commonwealth bet and Australia's Ciara Di Tommaso dropped their opening match in the doubles event, bowing to Jemma Carbis and Lexie Weir, 3-6, 2-6.

Lee also had a better showing in the singles event this year. She made it to the

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